

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 22, 2023
SUBJECT:	Approve Update to SRTA Human Resources Policies and Procedures
AGENDA ITEM:	7-6
STAFF CONTACT:	Sean Tiedgen

SUMMARY:

An update to SRTA's Human Resources Policies are needed to maintain consistency with new federal and state laws made effective in 2023. Due to potential fiscal impacts to the agency, a discussion and recommendation related to changes in SRTA's bereavement leave policy are presented for consideration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve staff's recommendation to provide up to five days (40 hours) of paid bereavement leave for each qualifying event; and
2. Approve the updated and revised SRTA Human Resource Policies (attached).

DISCUSSION:

SRTA's human resource policies need an update to ensure consistency with federal and state law changes made effective in 2023. Significant changes include: updating SRTA's Discrimination and Harassment policies and procedures; clarifying that Paid Family Leave may apply to a qualifying event related to family member's military deployment; changes related to various types of leave allowed under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), including adding a definition for "designated person;" updating SRTA's bereavement leave policy (see discussion below), and making other minor, non-substantive updates.

Bereavement Leave Policy: SRTA provides up to 24 hours (i.e., three days) of paid bereavement leave for full-time employees, and a pro-rated amount for full-time employees working between 30-40 hours a week. California law now requires employers provide up to five days of bereavement leave for each qualifying event, for individuals who are employed at least 30 days prior to starting the requested leave. The policy has been updated to include up to three days of paid bereavement leave and two days of unpaid bereavement leave. ***It is recommended that the board of directors consider providing the full five days (i.e., up to 40 hours) as paid time off, without impact on an employee's accrued vacation, sick, or other eligible paid time off.***

FISCAL AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

///The Fiscal and Policy Committee met on June 13, 2023, to review the human resource policy updates and concurs with the staff recommendation.///

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose to not make these changes, request modifications to the policy changes, or request more information and continue this item to a future meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no net fiscal impact to the agency with the policy updates.

Jessica Carlson, Chief Fiscal Officer

Attachment: SRTA Human Resources Policies (updated)

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency

Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual (Title 5)

Updated June 2023

Chapter 5.00 - LEGAL

5.00.010 - INTRODUCTION/RIGHT TO REVISE

- A. The Shasta Regional Transportation Agency ("SRTA" or "the Agency") enacts the following Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual ("Manual") with the purpose of encouraging and maintaining a workplace environment of mutual respect and dignity for its employees engaged in furtherance of the mission of the Agency and service to its constituents.
- B. This Manual contains the policies, practices, guidelines, and procedures that the SRTA has in effect at the time of publication. All employees should read, understand, and comply with all provisions of the Manual. It describes many of the responsibilities as an employee and outlines the programs developed by the Agency to benefit employees. One of our objectives is to provide a work environment that is conducive to both personal and professional growth while delivering high-quality plans, projects, and programs to the public.
- C. Regarding applicability of the Manual to the executive director: where the executive director's employment contract is silent, the policies and procedures in the Manual also apply to the executive director.
- D. The Agency reserves the right to revise, modify, delete, or add to all policies, procedures, work rules, or benefits stated in this Manual or in any other document. Any changes must be in writing and must be signed by the executive director of the Agency or authorized designee. Any such written changes to this Manual will be generally distributed so that employees will be aware of the new policies or procedures. No oral statements or representations can in any way change or alter the provisions of this Manual.
- E. The policies and practices set out in this Manual or in any other personnel document, including benefit plan descriptions, are not intended to imply a contractual relationship, nor are they intended to create a promise or representation of continued employment for any employee.
- F. Reference to the "Agency" throughout this manual refers to the SRTA organization and its staff. It is intended that wherever reference is made in this Manual to decisions/recommendations being made or actions taken by the Agency, those decisions/recommendations are being made by the Agency's board of directors, executive director or authorized designee.
- G. This Manual will specifically reference the Agency's board of directors when decisions/ recommendations are referred to that level.

- H. As a general provision regarding seniority or longevity, SRTA employees who transitioned from the County of Shasta to the Agency on or before July 1, 2012, will be granted their years of service with the County.

5.00.020 - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

- A. The Agency is an equal employment opportunity employer and makes employment decisions upon the qualifications, merit, or performance of an individual, and not on unlawful criteria. The Agency recognizes its legal obligation (per state and federal law) not to refuse to hire or employ person; or refuse to select a person for a training program leading to employment; or to bar or discharge a person from employment or from a training program leading to employment; or to discriminate against a person in compensation or terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of the person's race, color, creed, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, marital status, registered domestic partnership status, age, national origin or ancestry, citizenship, physical or mental disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or medical condition (including pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy-related conditions, and genetic characteristics). It also prohibits unlawful discrimination based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics. All such discrimination is unlawful. The Agency considers the attainment of equal employment a major Agency objective and is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all qualified persons.
- B. The Agency will abide by all required federal and state statutes pertaining to nondiscrimination in employment practices and apply this policy in matters of personnel administration including, but not limited to recruitment, hiring, transfer, compensation, training, promotion, layoff and recall from layoff, and other terms and conditions of employment. All other personnel actions or programs such as benefits, education, tuition assistance, social and recreational programs will be administered in a non-discriminatory manner. All employment decisions will be consistent with the principle of equal employment opportunity (EEO).
- C. An employee who feels that they are being illegally discriminated against, should file a complaint immediately. Please see the Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure (Policy 5.00.040A(4) of this Manual) on page [452] for more details.

5.00.030 – CALIFORNIA FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING ACT AND AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT POLICY

- A. It is the Agency's policy and practice to comply with the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act and ensure equal employment opportunity for all qualified persons with a known physical or mental

disability or medical condition, sincerely held religious belief or practice, or any other reason required by applicable law. The Agency is committed to ensuring non-discrimination in all terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. The Agency will make reasonable accommodations for the known limitations of an otherwise qualified individual who is an applicant or an employee, including accommodation for lactation and religious practices, unless undue Agency hardship would result.

- B. Qualified individuals with known disabilities or medical conditions are entitled to equal pay and other forms of compensation as well as equal treatment and reasonable accommodation in job assignments. Employment decisions are based upon the essential responsibilities of the position, in accordance with defined criteria, not the disability of the individual.

1. GUIDELINES

- a. An applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job should contact the executive director and specify what accommodation is needed to perform the job.
- b. The executive director will conduct an investigation to identify the barriers that make it difficult for the applicant or employee to have an equal opportunity to perform the job. An employee will be required to present a certification from a healthcare provider as to what job functions, he or she can perform, for which job functions he or she needs an accommodation, and what accommodation is recommended. The Agency will engage in a good faith, interactive process with otherwise qualified applicants or employees and will make reasonable accommodations, provided they will not impose undue hardship on the Agency.
- c. An employee who feels that they are being illegally discriminated against should file a complaint immediately. **Please see the Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure (Policy 5.00.040A(4) of this Manual) on page 452 for more details.**

5.00.040 - POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

- A. The Agency fully supports efforts to protect and safeguard the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain and hold employment with the Agency without unlawful discrimination or harassment. The Agency denounces unlawful discrimination against or verbal, visual and/or physical harassment of an applicant for employment or a current Agency employee on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age (persons over age 40), sex or gender, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, marital status, physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS), pregnancy including breastfeeding and related medical conditions, medical conditions relating to a diagnosis of cancer or a record or history of cancer, genetic characteristics,

information, or identity, sexual orientation, or on the basis that the applicant or employee is perceived to be a member of a protected class or is associated with a member of a protected class. This policy is also intended to prohibit treating an Agency client or customer in a discriminatory or harassing manner.

1. GUIDELINES:

- a. Under federal and state laws it is illegal to discriminate or harass on one or more of the foregoing bases in hiring, firing, compensation, and other terms or conditions, privileges or benefits of employment.
- b. All employees shall be informed of the discrimination or harassment complaint process and be assured of their right to file complaints without fear of reprisal. All supervisors and managers shall be trained regarding behavior that constitutes discrimination or harassment.
- c. Discrimination against or harassment of another employee or an applicant for employment in violation of this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- d. This policy prohibits any violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, as it currently reads or as it may be amended in the future.
- e. The Agency encourages any employee to raise questions he/she may have regarding discrimination or harassment or the terms of this policy with the executive director.
- f. SRTA will reasonably accommodate an employee's religious beliefs or practices, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the Agency.

2. PROHIBITED CONDUCT - Definition of unlawful discrimination:

- a. Discrimination in employment is unlawful when decisions regarding the terms, conditions or benefits of employment are based on an applicant's or an employee's actual or perceived protected status, such as race, national origin, gender or sex (including pregnancy), age (40 years and older), mental or physical disability, medical conditions relating to a diagnosis of cancer or a record or history of cancer, genetic characteristics, religion, marital status or sexual orientation.
- b. This policy prohibits four types of illegal discrimination:
 - I. Disparate treatment: treating an individual differently because of his/her protected status;

- II. Disparate impact: following a policy or practice that has a discriminatory impact on a protected group of persons;
 - III. Harassment: treating an individual in such an abusive or hostile way because of his/he protected status that it unreasonably interferes with an employee's work performance or creates a hostile work environment; and
 - IV. Retaliation: harassing or imposing an adverse employment action because an individual filed a discrimination complaint or in some other way opposed discriminatory practices, including participation in an investigation, proceeding or hearing including discriminatory practices.
- c. Actions which constitute harassment include:
- I. Verbal harassment: epithets, derogatory comments, threats, slurs or other offensive words or comments.
 - II. Physical harassment: assault, battery, impeding or blocking movement, or the physical interference with normal work, privacy or movement.
 - III. Visual forms of harassment: derogatory, prejudicial, stereotypical or otherwise offensive posters, photographs, cartoons, notes, correspondence, electronic messages/postings or drawings.
- d. Unlawful harassment occurs when an employee's conduct, such as that described in paragraph 2 of this section, is based on an individual's actual or perceived protected status AND that conduct:
- I. Unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, and/or
 - II. Creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment, and/or
 - III. Influences or affects an individual's salary, employment conditions, position or some other aspect of career development.
- e. This policy prohibits sexual harassment:
- I. Sexual harassment is a type of sex discrimination and is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. It is against the policy of the Agency for any employee, male or female, to sexually harass another employee, an applicant for employment, or a member of the public while in the course of Agency employment, while in uniform, or while using an Agency vehicle.

- II. "Sexual harassment," as used in this policy, includes any unsolicited and unwelcome sexual conduct when that conduct is directed toward a person because of that person's sex or gender, and:
 - a. Submission to the conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment;
 - b. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by an employee is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the employee; or
 - c. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or otherwise offensive work environment.
- II. For the California Civil Rights Department's (formerly Department of Fair Employment and Housing) sexual harassment online training course, please refer to <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/shpt/>.
- f. "Sexual harassment" does not refer to behavior or occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature. It refers to behavior that is not welcome, that is personally offensive, that fails to respect the rights of others, that lowers morale and that, therefore, interferes with work efficiency. Sexual harassment may take different forms. It may be overt or subtle. One specific form is the demand for sexual favors. Other forms of harassment include but are not limited to:
 - I. Verbal: Sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, whistling, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, degrading comments, or threats, whether made in person, by telephone or in messages left on voice mail.
 - II. Visual: Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons; leering; obscene gestures; or degrading or vulgar communications made in writing or by fax, email or other computer transmission.
 - III. Physical: Unwanted physical contact, including touching, pinching, brushing the body, assault, battery, coerced sexual intercourse or making explicit or implicit threats or promises in return for submission to physical acts.
- g. This policy also prohibits Agency employees from acting in discriminatory or harassing manner toward the Agency's clients or customers.
- h. The following conduct by Agency managers, supervisors and lead employees is also prohibited by this policy:

- I. Failing to promptly report or take corrective action when the manager, supervisor or lead person knows, or reasonably should know, that an employee, applicant for employment, or a customer or client of the Agency is being subjected to harassment, sexual harassment or other forms of discrimination on the job or by an Agency employee; or
- II. Retaliating against a person who complained of discrimination or harassment, or who testified on behalf of one who made a complaint, or who assisted or participated in any manner on behalf of a complainant in an investigation or proceeding conducted under this policy.
- i. By law, department heads, managers, supervisors and lead persons are responsible for the actions of their employees. Department heads must ensure that employees, managers, supervisors and lead persons are aware of and comply with the Agency's policy. Prevention is the best tool. Prompt, appropriate action can help avoid, or at least minimize, the incidence of discrimination and harassment.

3. EMPLOYEE ACTION:

- a. Some people may not be aware that their behavior constitutes or may constitute discriminatory or harassing conduct under this policy. Advising someone of the discriminatory or harassing nature of his/her behavior will place that person on notice regarding his/her behavior. An employee who feels he/she is being discriminated against or harassed is encouraged to inform the other person either verbally or in writing that the behavior is discriminatory or unwelcome, offensive, in poor taste, or otherwise inappropriate.
- b. Any employee or prospective employee who believes he/she has been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment should report the alleged act, verbally or, preferably, in writing, to his/her supervisor, human resources, the SRTA general counsel, or the executive director or authorized designee. Please see the Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure below for more details.

4. DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:

- a. This procedure shall be used to review and resolve allegations by any employee or prospective employee, who believes he/she has been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment, to report allegations of discrimination or harassment (including sexual harassment):
 - I. Any employee or prospective employee who believes he/she has been the victim of discrimination or harassment (including sexual harassment) by

anyone in the workplace, including an employee or customer, supplier, or visitor, should notify his/her supervisor, human resources, the SRTA general counsel, or the executive director or authorized designee of the alleged act, either as soon as practicable or at least within 10 days of the incident. It is preferred that the complaint be in writing and filed with the executive director or authorized designee, but this is not mandatory.

- II. The complaint must address the following information to allow a comprehensive investigation to be conducted:
 - a. The complainant's full name.
 - b. The complainant's job title (if an Agency employee).
 - c. The full name and job title (if an Agency employee) of the person or persons allegedly responsible for the discrimination or harassment.
 - d. A plain, concise statement of the facts constituting the alleged discrimination or harassment.
 - e. The date or dates on which the alleged discrimination or harassment occurred.
 - f. The name and telephone number of any witnesses.
 - g. The complainant's signature, address, and telephone number and the date of filing of the complaint (if the complaint is in writing, the date of signing of the complaint).
- III. A supervisory employee receiving a verbal or written complaint of or observing conduct which appears to be prohibited discrimination or harassment should inform the executive director or authorized designee of such complaint or conduct as soon as possible and in no event later than the end of the next working day.
- IV. The executive director or authorized designee shall immediately, or as reasonably possible, initiate an effective, thorough, timely, and objective investigation of the alleged discrimination or harassment based upon: (1) the employee's complaint or report; (2) a report of such behavior given to him/her by an officer or employee who is not a party to the allegation; and (3) such other information as he/she deems sufficient to conduct the investigation.
- V. The executive director or authorized designee, in consultation with legal counsel, will have full authority to investigate all aspects of the complaint.

- VI. If the complaint was verbal, the executive director or authorized designee may request the person who was the target of the alleged discrimination or harassment to submit his/her complaint in writing, but this is not mandatory. The executive director or authorized designee shall prepare a memorandum to the Agency's legal counsel concerning the complaint and a statement of findings following the investigation.
- VII. All complaints will be investigated in a timely and confidential manner. Reasonable attempts shall be made to protect the confidentiality of the person who alleges that discrimination or harassment has taken place; however, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed given the extent of the investigation that may take place. Information concerning a complaint will not be released by the Agency to third parties or to anyone within the Agency who is not involved with the investigation, except as required by law, nor will anyone involved be permitted to discuss the subject outside of the investigation or a resulting disciplinary action. The purpose of this provision is to protect the confidentiality of the complainant, to encourage the reporting of any incidents of discrimination or harassment, and to protect the reputation of any employee wrongfully charged with discrimination or harassment.
- VIII. All employees shall be protected from coercion, intimidation, retaliation, interference or discrimination for filing a complaint or assisting in an investigation. Any form of retaliation, whether against an employee who makes a discrimination or harassment complaint or against a witness or any other employee involved in a complaint or investigation, is against the Agency's policy. The Agency will strictly enforce this policy and will treat retaliatory action as a violation that is subject to disciplinary measures, up to and including termination.
- IX. The investigation of a complaint will normally include conferring with the parties involved and any witnesses. The executive director or authorized designee is empowered to require the attendance of any employee or officer at all reasonable times for purposes of conducting the investigation and receiving testimony. The investigation may include interviews with the complainant, the alleged perpetrator, and any other persons who may have relevant knowledge concerning the complaint. The investigation shall be as thorough as possible and shall conclude within the shortest possible time reasonable given the complexity of the case at hand. When good cause is shown, temporary action may be taken pending the conclusion of the investigation. The executive director or authorized designee, in consultation with legal counsel, shall determine whether the complaint is valid in whole or in part, based on the evidence obtained during the investigation.

- X. Upon a finding that an Agency official or employee has engaged in unlawful harassment or discrimination against another Agency employee, an applicant for employment, or an Agency client or customer, the appointing authority shall take disciplinary action against the perpetrator up to and including termination of employment. Any disciplinary action shall be commenced and prosecuted in accordance with these human resources policies and procedures. Other appropriate remedial measures deemed necessary to prevent future discrimination or harassment shall also be taken.
 - XI. After the statement of findings and remedial action has been approved by legal counsel and the executive director or authorized designee, the executive director or authorized designee shall provide the complainant with the opportunity to meet to discuss the findings and any remedial action to be taken. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the findings or the proposed remedial action, the complainant may within five working days of the meeting, submit a written request for reconsideration. A meeting between the complainant, the executive director or authorized designee, and legal counsel, will be held within ten working days of the receipt of that request. Prior to any modification of the original statement, the alleged perpetrator shall be given notice of the proposed modification and an opportunity to provide input. The complainant shall be advised of his/her right to have a representative at any and all of these meetings.
 - XII. If misconduct is found, the statement, in its final form, may be made a part of the perpetrator's personnel file and should be attached or referred to in his/her next performance evaluation.
 - XIII. If the executive director or authorized designee is the subject of the complaint, the employee should submit his/her complaint to the SRTA general counsel who, in conjunction with the board of directors and the Agency human resources contract provider will investigate the complaint.
5. POLICY AS EXCLUSIVE MEANS OF REMEDY:
- a. The procedures specified herein shall provide the exclusive internal mechanism by which all complaints of discrimination or harassment by employees or applicants shall be heard and adjudicated and no other grievance or appeals procedure otherwise provided in this Manual shall be used for seeking an administrative remedy for such misconduct, or for purposes of taking testimony or hearing accusations and/or rebuttals on this subject, except that any employee against whom disciplinary action is initiated or proposed to be initiated pursuant to the application of this procedure shall have full rights to hearing, determination and appeal of

such disciplinary action or proposed disciplinary action to the extent provided in this Manual. The procedures specified herein will not preclude any person from utilizing the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for redress of his/her complaint.

6. FALSE COMPLAINT:

- a. The Agency recognizes that false accusations of discrimination or harassment can have serious effects on innocent individuals. An intentional false complaint of discrimination or harassment may be a basis for the filing of disciplinary charges and may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

5.00.050 - POLICY AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

POLICY

- A. No employee should have to tolerate violence or the threat of violence, or abusive conduct in the workplace. Anyone who is the victim of any violent, threatening, harassing or abusive conduct, or who observes such conduct taking place (whether the perpetrator is an Agency employee or a non-employee) should not attempt to confront the perpetrator, but should immediately report the conduct to law enforcement, and/or the reporting person's supervisor, or to the executive director. All such complaints will be thoroughly investigated, and the Agency will take appropriate steps to prevent any harm from occurring or being repeated. No adverse action will be taken against anyone who makes a good faith report under this policy.
- B. As part of our continuing commitment to workplace safety, the Agency is determined to provide a work atmosphere that is free of violence and the threat of violence. Violent or threatening conduct of any kind, whether it is directed against an Agency employee or outside party, will not be tolerated. This policy prohibits conduct in connection with Agency operations or facilities including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person or damage to another person's property.
 2. Fighting or challenging another person to a fight.
 3. Stalking (i.e., the repeated following, calling or harassing of another, combined with the making of a verbal, written, or implied threat).
 4. Possessing a firearm or any object ordinarily used or intended to be used as a weapon in an Agency building or at a work site (including an outdoor work site) or

an Agency vehicle, whether or not the employee has been issued a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

5. "Abusive conduct", meaning conduct of an employer or employee in the workplace, with malice, that a reasonable person would find hostile, offensive, and unrelated to the employer's legitimate business.
- C. All violations of this policy will be treated as serious and may lead to discipline, up to and including termination of employment. In appropriate cases, the Agency may also seek criminal prosecution.

5.00.060 - EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

- A. In accordance with The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the Agency hires only those individuals who are lawfully authorized to work in the United States.
- B. Each new employee must provide original and current documentation to the Agency to establish employment eligibility and identification. A completed Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 must be furnished to the Agency within seventy-two (72) hours of date of hire. Providing false documentation or making false statements on the verification form will be grounds for immediate termination.

5.00.070 - BUSINESS ETHICS

- A. It is the policy of the Agency to conduct business in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the law and in conformity with ethical standards.
- B. Accordingly, employees must not take any action on behalf of the Agency that violates any law or regulation. Employees must adhere to high moral and ethical standards in the conduct of business. Employees may not engage in activity that results in a conflict of interest with the Agency or that reflects unfavorably on its integrity. Employees violating these standards are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
- C. In situations and on issues involving ethical or moral judgments, employees may sometimes have difficulty determining the correct course of action. In such situations, employees are urged to discuss the matter with the executive director of the Agency or authorized designee.
- D. Certain management employees are subject to the Agency's Conflict of Interest Code disclosure requirements.
- E. It is important that employees rely on their own good judgment in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. When those situations occur where proper course

of action is unclear, employees are to request advice and counsel from the executive director. The reputation and good name of the Agency depends upon the honesty and integrity of each employee.

Chapter 5.05 - EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

5.05.010 - PROBATION

- A. The probationary period is an intrinsic part and extension of the employee selection process during which the employee will be considered in training and under careful observation and evaluation by supervisory personnel. Generally, this period will be utilized to train the employee for his/her job responsibilities and to determine whether there is a fit between the Agency's business needs and the qualifications of the employee. During the probationary period, employment may be terminated with or without cause and with or without notice by either the Agency or the employee.
1. Upon initial appointment, all full-time employees shall serve the first 12 months in a probationary period, during which time the employee may be dismissed without cause or right of appeal at the executive director's or authorized designee's sole discretion.
 2. A new employee terminated during the probationary period needs to be told only that the probationary period was not satisfactorily completed, and the employee is terminated.
 3. Probationary employees will receive a performance evaluation after the first six months of employment. At the time of the six-month appraisal, a work plan establishing employee goals and objectives for the remaining six months of the probationary period and the following six months (a total of 12 months) is to be developed. The evaluation of these goals and objectives will occur at the time of the annual evaluation to be conducted twelve months after the initial evaluation, or eighteen months from the hire date.
 4. At the conclusion of the probationary period, an informal meeting with the employee and supervisor shall occur to review employee progress and a memorandum shall be placed in the employee file documenting that the probationary period has been satisfied.
 5. Upon promotion to a classification with a higher salary range, an employee shall serve the first 12 months in a probationary period, during which time the employee may be returned to his/her previous classification without cause or right of appeal, provided the employee had successfully attained permanent status in the previous class.

6. The executive director has the authority to extend the probationary period for an additional one-time period of up to a maximum of 12 months.
7. The executive director may require a 12-month probationary period as a condition of appointment in cases of lateral transfer or demotion, voluntary or otherwise. During such probationary period, the employee may be dismissed without cause or right of appeal. The employee has no right to return to his/her previous position.
8. Probationary employees will accrue benefits, such as vacation and sick leave at the designated accrual rate.

5.05.020 - EMPLOYMENT STATUS

A. Employment categories:

1. Full-Time Employee - For purposes of this Manual, employees in this category are those who regularly work between 30 and 40 hours per week on a continuous scheduled basis. Employees working under 40 hours per week must receive prior approval from the executive director and must also receive approval for any subsequent reductions or increases in workweek hours. Employees in this category are eligible to participate in all benefit programs offered by the Agency, subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of each benefit program. Employees in this category are required to participate in the Agency's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) program.
2. Part-Time Employee - Employees in this category are those who regularly work less than 30 hours per week on a continuous scheduled basis. Jobs may be of limited or specified duration arising out of special projects, a position vacancy pending appointment, the absence of a position incumbent, abnormal workloads, emergencies, or other reasons established by the Agency. Part-time employee positions are dependent on year-to-year reviews of Agency workload and budget availability documented annually and approved by the Agency board of directors as part of the Overall Work Program. Part-time positions may be eliminated at any time if Agency workload, budgeted resources, or other reasons no longer justify employment. Part-time employees may include interns, retirees, temporary positions, and/or extra help. Part-time employees may only participate in limited benefits specifically provided by Section 5 of this Manual, or those that are mandated by state and/or federal laws and regulations. Part-time employee status is not considered for seniority or benefit longevity purposes if the employee is subsequently hired as a regular full-time employee.

B. The following are additional categories that apply to certain Agency positions:

1. Executive Director - The administrative head of the Agency, as appointed by the board of directors, with duties and powers as described in his/her contract with the board of directors, as well as, the Agency's bylaws.
2. Confidential - A non-management employee who, in the course of his/her duties, is regularly privy to management planning or decision-making regarding the Agency's administration of employer-employee relations as determined by the board of directors.

C. Employment Classifications:

All Agency positions are classified as either exempt or non-exempt according to federal and state legal guidelines. Exemption status is also defined in the Agency's classification plan and in each classification description.

1. Exempt Positions - If a position is classified as exempt as defined by applicable federal and state laws, no overtime compensation will be paid to employees occupying that position.
2. Non-exempt Positions - Employees designated as non-exempt are paid on an hourly basis and are also eligible for overtime compensation. Work in excess of 12 hours in one day is not allowed, except in rare instances where the work is critical to the Agency and must be approved in advance by the executive director or authorized designee.

5.05.030 - JOB CLASSIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
(Amended 2/24/22)

- A. The goal of the Agency's classification specifications is to develop a system that supports employee development, provides opportunities for career advancement, and creates an understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of each position within the Agency.
- B. GUIDELINES - Classification and compensation practices are reviewed periodically to ensure internal and external comparability and competitiveness of pay practices. When a new classification is created or when a position's duties, functions and/or responsibilities change significantly, a job analysis or classification reevaluation is conducted. Positions are classified/reclassified and assigned/reassigned to a salary grade on the basis of the classification review.
 1. Position Classification -
 - a. The classification of each position shall be consistent with the duties performed, and the position classification title approved by the executive director for inclusion in the Agency's budget. Classification titles

compensated above the Senior Transportation Planner class are approved by the board of directors.

- b. The executive director or authorized designee may reclassify or add positions compensated in the Senior Transportation Planner class or below to meet unanticipated operational requirements, subject to budget authority.
2. Class Specifications -
 - a. The executive director or authorized designee shall be responsible for the preparation of a class specification for each classification. The class specifications shall describe common distinguishing characteristics for each classification such as title, nature of work, supervision received and exercised, examples of essential and related duties, qualifications, requirements, and relationship to other classifications in the career series, if applicable. Class specifications shall be updated, maintained, or may be created as the executive director or authorized designee determines necessary to properly describe the work performed and to accomplish the Agency's mission, purpose, and programs. Class specifications compensated above the Senior Transportation Planner class will be approved by the board of directors. Class specifications shall be made publicly available on the Agency's website and to the employees of each classification as a general description of the work performed.
3. Classification Titles -
 - a. The title of the class to which any position is allocated shall be used in all official personnel records and in all official personnel transactions of the Agency. The provisions of this section do not preclude using separate duty statement descriptions and working titles within the same classification so long as the duties remain within the scope of the classification.
4. Classification Pay Plan -
 - a. The executive director or authorized designee is responsible for the classification of individual positions and the assignment of classes to salary ranges within currently approved salary schedules as may be required to accomplish the Agency's mission, purpose, and programs, provided that such classifications and reclassifications are:
 - I. Consistent with policy.
 - II. Will not exceed the approved budget for personnel expenses.
 - III. Not compensated above the Senior Transportation Planner level, unless approved by the board of directors.
5. Amendment and Maintenance -
 - a. Whenever one or more new classes are requested or whenever, because of any change in organization or method, a significant change in the duties or responsibilities of any existing position is to be made, which requires the

amendment of the classification plan, such revision and amendment of the classification plan shall be made in the manner provided herein.

- b. The executive director or authorized designee may create new classes; divide, combine, alter, or abolish existing classes; allocate new positions to appropriate classes; or reallocate existing positions to other classes. However, the executive director may not make these changes for classes with compensation above the Senior Transportation Planner class.
- c. The reclassification of a position will not change the employee's probationary status, regularly scheduled evaluation date, or step-increase schedule.

5.05.040 - COMPENSATION

(Amended 2/24/22)

A. POLICY

The Agency's compensation program is designed to attract, retain, motivate, and reward the best possible workforce in an equitable manner. To accomplish this, the Agency has established the following plan, provisions, and standards for employee compensation.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Salary Plan -

- a. The Agency's salary plan is designed to assist the Agency in paying each employee a salary determined by the competitive job market, job responsibilities, and the required level of expertise.
- b. Employees shall receive the compensation provided in the basic salary schedule approved by the board of directors for the classification of the position in which they are employed, in accordance with the allocation of such classifications to ranges of the basic salary schedule and in accordance with the terms of employment hereinafter set forth. The salary of each class shall be further based on the principle that like salaries shall be paid for comparable duties and responsibilities and that Agency salary schedules shall bear a reasonable relationship to prevailing rates of pay in other public jurisdictions and in local private employment.
- c. The executive director or authorized designee has overall responsibility for recommending, interpreting, and monitoring the salary and performance management systems.
- d. The executive director may approve new classifications of positions compensated at or below the senior transportation planner level to address specialized agency needs provided that the board of directors approves sufficient budget authority.

2. Compensation Structure -

- a. The salary structure assigns each Agency position to a salary range that identifies minimum and maximum rates, based on comparable positions at other public-sector agencies, according to the skills, responsibilities, and qualifications that the position requires, rather than individual job performance or qualifications of the incumbent in that position. Each position is then assigned an appropriate step within the ascribed salary range.
- b. Periodically, as part of the board of directors' review of Salary and Benefits, the executive director or authorized designee will review the compensation plan to evaluate current market value and labor market inflation. If appropriate, the executive director or authorized designee will recommend that ranges be adjusted to reflect market changes.

3. Starting Compensation -

- a. The starting rate of pay for a newly hired employee will be determined by the executive director or authorized designee. The decision as to where to place the newly hired employee within the pre-determined salary range is made according to the knowledge, skills and abilities and job-related experience the employee brings to the Agency. The executive director has the authority to hire at steps A through F depending on qualifications.

4. Performance Review -

- a. Supervisors are responsible for reviewing each employee's performance. Performance evaluations will occur after six months of employment and annually thereafter. Based upon the results of the performance review, the executive director or authorized designee may make salary adjustments - including performance pay - within the approved salary ranges and the adopted budget for the following fiscal year.
- b. Accurate performance reviews are particularly important and will be considered for potential salary adjustments at the discretion of the executive director or authorized designee.

5. Performance Pay -

- a. All full-time employees shall be eligible for pay increases of zero to 5% for exceptional performance to be determined during each employee evaluation. New employees will not be eligible until they have completed probation and have undergone their first annual evaluation after the six-month initial evaluation; generally 18 months after their initial hire date. The pay increase shall apply to each discrete evaluation period and shall not be cumulative; it may fluctuate up to 5% or down to zero due to changes in performance or new job duties and expectations. The determination shall be made by the executive director. The board of directors, at their discretion, may consider performance pay for the

executive director as part of the executive director evaluation. Performance pay shall be based on the following:

- I. Number of “Weighted” performance categories applicable to the job classification graded as “Exceeds Standards.”
 - II. Number of goals that were met by the stated dates in a manner that exceeded expectations. Exceptions may be considered where unusual circumstances surrounding a particular goal were beyond the employees’ control as determined by the evaluator.
 - III. Other demonstrations of exceptional performance due to initiative or new duties that were not envisioned in the prior evaluation goals.
- b. An evaluation which requires a “Performance Improvement Plan” due to “Unacceptable” or “Improvement Needed” grades will not typically be eligible for performance pay while the Performance Improvement Plan is in effect.
6. Timing of Salary Increases -
- a. Full-time employees’ salaries will be reviewed for the first time during the six-month probationary performance evaluation and annually thereafter. The employee’s performance evaluation will be taken into consideration. Increases may be granted with a satisfactory employee performance evaluation that does not require a corrective action plan, and where an employee has not reached the maximum compensation for their pay classification. Part-time employees may be considered for salary increases as part of a performance evaluation after 1040 hours paid time, and every 2080 hours paid time thereafter.
7. Promotions -
- a. An employee who is promoted to a higher classification within the established compensation plan will receive at least a 5% salary increase within a specified salary step of the new position.
8. Longevity Pay -
- a. Once a full-time employee has been with the Agency for 10 consecutive years of service, the employee will receive a 5% increase in pay. These 10 years do not include unpaid leaves of absence.
9. Paydays -
- a. All salaries and wages shall be paid on a biweekly basis not later than the Friday following the end of the pay period for the preceding two weeks’ earnings.

5.05.050 - ACTING PAY/WORKING OUT OF CLASSIFICATION

- A. When an employee is temporarily assigned work and responsibilities normally assigned to a vacant higher-level non-exempt position, the employee shall receive pay according to the most current salary classification pay schedule for performing such work at a rate equivalent to that provided for under Agency promotional rules after meeting the following requirements (at which time the pay increase will be effective the first day the employee started working out of class):
1. Perform the full regular duties of the higher position.
 2. Perform the duties of the higher position for a period of at least 80 work hours, except with an approved interruption. (Holidays shall be treated like weekends or comparable regularly scheduled days off.) An approved interruption shall be the use of approved leave balances not to exceed an accumulation of 16 hours during the 80-hour qualification period.
 3. A vacant higher-level position, as referred to herein, shall include absences by the incumbent of the higher position of more than 10 workdays including vacation, sick or other forms of leave.
- B. Additionally, the executive director or designee must approve such an arrangement prior to assigning an employee to work out of class in a position subject to the conditions described in this paragraph.

5.05.055 - MID-MANAGER ROLE ROTATION ROLE

- A. A full-time employee may be temporarily assigned additional work in a mid-manager rotation role by mutual agreement of the Executive Director and the employee for managerial experience and professional development. A rotation in the mid-manger role will not exceed twelve months and is established by the Executive Director by written agreement with the employee. The role is voluntary, and the agreement may be terminated at any time by the Executive Director or employee. The employee shall not receive management benefits while in the rotation; however, there will be a five percent compensation increase while the agreement is in effect. The agreement will include specific additional duties while in the mid-manager role and shall specify the term of the agreement. At the end of the agreement, the employee will be evaluated for their performance in the mid-manager role as part of their regular evaluation.

5.05.060 - PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

- A. The purpose of this policy is to establish Agency-wide procedures and standards for conducting performance evaluations for all employees. All employees shall receive a written performance evaluation on an Agency approved form a minimum of once

- annually. All formal performance evaluations shall be placed in the employee's personnel file. Employees shall be given copies of any formal written review of their performance by their supervisor or other designated staff. Employees have the right to make comments in writing concerning any written performance evaluation and supporting documents and have their comments attached to the relevant evaluation and placed in their personnel file; however, performance evaluations are not subject to the grievance process.
- B. Regular formal and informal performance evaluations and feedback between supervisor and employee are essential to promoting effective job performance. The goal of conducting evaluations is to:
1. Improve employee work performance by letting employees know what is expected;
 2. Set consistent and legitimate work standards;
 3. Identify and develop employee leadership, supervisory, and promotional potential;
 4. Recognize and reward exceptional employee performance;
 5. Serve as an accurate reflection of an employee's performance and offer constructive criticism to improve performance;
 6. Encourage open communication between supervisor and employee;
 7. Establish and monitor performance goals and objectives;
 8. Identify employee training needs;
 9. Hold employees responsible for their work; and
 10. Increase the effectiveness of supervisors and hold them accountable for the performance of their employees.

PROCEDURE

- C. Whenever a new supervisor is assigned to a work unit, a new employee begins work, or an employee changes a job assignment, the supervisor is responsible for discussing with the employee the expected standards of conduct and performance by which the employee's performance will be evaluated.

1. During the course of the evaluation period, any minor performance deficiency should be promptly discussed with the employee.
 2. If a discussion fails to correct a minor deficiency, a supervisor should advise the employee of the need for performance improvement and document the discussion by way of a counseling memorandum to the employee, a Performance Improvement Plan as part of a performance evaluation, or by other appropriate means.
 3. A supervisor should coach an employee in a manner that addresses any deficiency by describing in detail the desired conduct and/or performance.
- D. The performance evaluation form is used to describe the employee's performance and summarize and record the discussions during the evaluation period between a supervisor and an employee.
1. Because a written performance evaluation is part of the process of continual feedback, performance ratings and narratives should never be a surprise to an employee.
 2. Each performance evaluation is to be discussed with an employee privately in a face-to-face meeting.
 3. An employee must be given a copy of his or her written performance evaluation.
- E. Performance evaluations are given for a variety of reasons and may be given more than once a year. Regardless of the reason for a performance evaluation, a supervisor shall ensure that the ratings are applied consistently within the department and are related to job performance.
1. Annually: This is the most common and commences after the initial six-month evaluation for new hires or changes in job classification.
 2. Probation: A probationary employee shall be given a written performance evaluation no later than six months after his or her appointment to a position. Additional performance evaluations may occur throughout the probationary period within the discretion of the supervisor.
 3. Lengthy or special projects: A written performance evaluation may be given during or at the conclusion of a lengthy or special project, as determined by a supervisor.
 4. Miscellaneous: Subject to the discretion of the supervisor, a written performance evaluation may be given to an employee at any other time.

- F. Performance evaluations shall be completed on or before the employee's six-month initial due date and annually thereafter.
1. Employee input: It is useful to utilize an employee input form which allows the employee to describe his or her achievements and future goals for the supervisor to consider prior to completing the evaluation form.
 2. Draft form: Unless a different time frame is mutually agreed upon, a draft evaluation form will be provided to the employee approximately 24 hours prior to the face-to-face meeting, in order to prepare the employee for the meeting.
 3. Supervisor review: If preferred, the supervisor can review the draft evaluation with the employee for the first time at the face-to-face meeting and allow the employee a period of time to respond prior to finalizing the evaluation.
- The review process may be different from one employee classification to another; however, the supervisor is encouraged to make the employee aware of what to expect in the evaluation process.
- G. An employee with an overall rating of "Unacceptable" or "Improvement Needed" shall not be entitled to a merit increase or performance pay increase until his or her overall rating reaches "Meets Expected Standards," or higher. If an employee is denied such increases, his or her performance evaluation must describe what action he or she must take in a specified time period to improve his or her performance and for the supervisor to potentially authorize a merit or performance increase subsequently, if appropriate.
1. A merit or performance increase granted under such circumstances shall not be retroactive.
- H. The executive director or authorized designee must approve the performance evaluation before it is presented to the employee.
- I. It is the responsibility of the executive director or authorized designee to ensure that this policy is carried out for his or her employees.

USE OF THE EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FORM

- J. The Agency has approved a standard evaluation form for all Agency employees except the executive director who undergoes evaluations in a manner determined by the Agency bylaws and board of directors.

- K. A supervisor must complete a narrative for each rated performance category. A narrative includes, at a minimum, a short paragraph detailing how the rating was determined.
 - 1. If a supervisor places greater weight on any individual rating factor in an identified category, the “weighted” box must be checked for the individual rating factor.
 - 2. All ratings checked as “Improvement Needed” or “Unacceptable” must be addressed in a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP). To be effective and in order to appropriately guide an employee in a deficient area of performance, a PIP must set forth, in clear terms, a description of the performance problem, the standard of performance the supervisor expects the employee to meet, and a deadline for achieving that standard of performance. A PIP should also describe all training, assistance and oversight that will be provided to the employee during the next evaluation period and should set timelines for the employee’s next evaluation period.
- L. Each supervisor is strongly encouraged to set goals and objectives for each employee within his or her performance evaluation for the next evaluation period. Employee success in meeting assigned goals and objectives shall be addressed in the next subsequent evaluation.
- M. Each supervisor shall give an employee his or her overall performance rating and shall provide a narrative that describes the employee’s job performance strengths and deficiencies for that evaluation period.
- N. Each supervisor is encouraged to utilize the employee development plan to identify training, education, or relevant experience an employee might acquire to enhance his or her development and job satisfaction.

5.05.070 - PERSONNEL RECORDS

A. POLICY

Personnel files are the property of the Agency. They are confidential, and the Agency will restrict access to and disclosure of personnel files to authorized individuals within the Agency who have a legitimate business reason to see such files. Personnel files are located in the executive director’s office or that of an authorized designee and individuals with a legitimate business reason can request access from the executive director or authorized designee. Employees’ medical information and health records will be kept in a separate confidential file in accordance with HIPAA regulations.

B. GUIDELINES

Maintenance of Records

1. Personnel records are confidential documents maintained in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. All personnel evaluations, as well as other forms, letters, and memorandums are to be addressed to or signed by the employee, acknowledging receipt of a copy prior to being placed in the employee's personnel file. If an employee refuses to sign a form or letter, the supervisor will sign as a witness to the fact that the employee has refused to sign, and the document will then be placed in the employee's personnel file.

C. Update

1. Each employee is responsible for notifying the executive director or authorized designee of changes in name, address, telephone number, driver's license, number of dependents, marital or registered domestic partnership status, beneficiary, education certificates or any other pertinent information.

D. Access/Confidentiality

1. Each employee has a right to inspect his/her own personnel file and is entitled to make notes. An employee does not have an absolute right to a copy of the file, except for documents which the employee has previously signed. Employees may review their own file upon request by scheduling an appointment with the executive director or authorized designee. Files must be reviewed in the Agency's office in the presence of a supervisor or the executive director or authorized designee. The Agency will also disclose personnel files to law enforcement agents if required by law.

E. Employment Reference/Credit Inquiries

1. The Agency is obligated to verify position and employment dates only. All reference inquiries regarding Agency employees will be referred to the executive director or authorized designee.

5.05.080 - HOURS OF WORK

A. POLICY

1. The executive director or authorized designee establishes working hours that are consistent with the operating requirements and responsibilities of the Agency. Work shifts, days, hours, and periods can be established and modified by the executive director or authorized designee within the limits prescribed by law, based on operating conditions and requirements of the Agency. Employees may not change their own work schedule without the express approval of their supervisor and/or the executive director or authorized designee.

The supervisor and/or executive director or authorized designee may require an employee to work overtime which may occur any time before or after the standard workweek including weekends, evenings, and/or holidays. The supervisor will attempt to provide advance notification, if possible.

B. GUIDELINES

Regular Workweek

1. The regular workweek is generally defined as forty hours between 12:01 a.m., Saturday and 12:00 midnight Friday, inclusive, or five working days of eight hours each from and including Saturday through the following Friday. The first shift of the work period shall be the first shift wherein the majority of its working hours follow 12:01 a.m. Sunday. Where alternate work weeks and schedules are established in accordance with provisions outlined below, alternative beginning and ending work weeks may be established by the executive director or authorized designee, usually on either Monday or Friday, for the purpose of minimizing overtime liability.

Work Schedules

2. A regular forty-hour workweek will consist of five days of eight consecutive hours of work within a nine-hour period, interrupted by an unpaid meal break of at least 30 minutes. The meal break will be taken during the mid-hours of the workday.
3. A regular workweek schedule for all employees working less than 40 hours shall be established with advanced approval by the executive director in writing and adhered to in the same manner as employees working a 40-hour workweek.
4. An alternate work schedule is defined as a variation of the standard workweek, which for most employees is five eight-hour days between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
5. Flexible Work Hours Plan: Once approved, by the processes described in Chapter 5.10 listed below, this plan allows an employee to voluntarily set a flex schedule each week, with the supervisor's approval. The schedule provides for working 40 hours in a week but provides time for personal or medical appointments, to participate in children's school activities, or for other reasons that would not normally be available in a regular five days per week, eight hours per day schedule unless the employee utilized leave balances.
6. Non-exempt employees are not expected to work or be available outside the normal work schedule unless compensated.
7. The establishment of alternate work schedules shall be subject to the following:

- a. An alternate schedule, or schedule for approved workweeks of under 40 hours, shall be established and approved in writing in advance by the executive director or authorized designee with the notice to the employee and the employee's representative, if any. No alternate schedule may include work on weekends or more than 10 hours of work in a day.
- b. The executive director or authorized designee may, at any time, cause any employee or group of employees to change a work schedule permanently or temporarily. Except in case of an emergency, the executive director or authorized designee shall provide an employee with 14 days advance notice of a permanent schedule change and/or a 12-hour notice of a temporary change.
- c. During payroll periods which contain a holiday, employees may be required to revert to a standard work schedule. However, in no event shall an employee receive more than eight hours of holiday pay or holiday credit for any holiday.
- d. The usage of accrued leave balances such as vacation, sick leave, and other paid time off, shall be on an hour-for-hour basis.

8. Work Shifts

- a. All employees will be assigned to a work shift with regular start and stop times, although the actual start and stop times may be different between employees based upon employer/supervisor and employee needs. The Agency's office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. All employees should work during the core hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The employee's supervisor will set a designated schedule in writing with specific working start and end times.

9. Start Time

- a. Employees are required to be at their assigned work locations and ready to begin work at their designated start time.

10. Rest Breaks

- a. Employees shall be granted a 15-minute paid rest period during shifts of at least three and one-half hours. Employees whose shift is six hours or longer shall be granted a 15-minute paid rest period in each half of the employee's work shift. Unless otherwise approved by the executive director or authorized designee, such breaks shall not be taken within one hour of the employee's starting time, quitting time, or meal break and shall not be accumulated or used to supplement meal breaks, arrive at work late, or leave work early.

- b. Employees who work less than three and one-half hours in a day will not receive a paid rest period.
- c. When traveling overnight, such as on a train, where sleeping facilities are purchased, a rest break of at least 8 hours is required.

11. Meal Periods

- a. All non-exempt employees must take at least a 30-minute meal period during the day if the employee will work more than five hours. Employees may not waive their meal break period for the day without written approval by the executive director or his/her designee. This break cannot be “tacked” onto the beginning or end of the workday (i.e., within one hour of the start or end of the workday). SRTA will provide the opportunity for meal periods, but it is up to the employee to schedule and to take the break allocated. SRTA shall not assign a non-exempt employee work-related responsibility during the meal period.

12. Telecommuting

- a. Full time SRTA employees report to work at a regularly assigned work site. Telecommuting allows an employee to work at a location other than the conventional office, such as an employee’s home or a satellite office. Telecommuting can be used periodically, as occasions arise where both SRTA and the employee would benefit from such an arrangement.
- b. The supervisor may approve telecommuting on a case-by-case basis for employees whose circumstances are such that they are able to work but don’t allow them to physically get to the office. This is generally limited to whole workday increments, and infrequent occasions when travel to the work site would not be reasonably possible, however the employee is available to work from another location.
- c. The employee must request the telecommuting schedule on a form provided by SRTA. The form should list specific work tasks to be completed by the employee. No telecommuting may occur prior to the form being completed and approved.
- d. Telecommuting is not a substitute for sick leave, child, or elder care. The telecommuter must provide child or dependent care in a manner that allows job responsibilities to be successfully met. The duties, obligations, responsibilities, and conditions of an employee are not changed by telecommuting. Employee should be readily accessible by regular communication methods during their normal working hours.

- e. Telecommuting is available to all non-exempt employees that have completed their first evaluation and are not subject to a corrective action plan.

5.05.090 - OVERTIME PAY

A. POLICY

1. All Agency positions are classified as either exempt or non-exempt in accordance with applicable federal and California laws. Non-exempt employees are eligible to earn overtime compensation and/or compensatory time off at overtime rates (compensatory time is earned at one-and-one-half hours for each hour of overtime worked).

B. GUIDELINES

Non-Exempt Employees

1. All hours worked in excess of 40 hours in one workweek will be treated as overtime and will be paid at a rate one-and-one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. For purposes of overtime, paid time off is not considered hours worked.
2. All overtime must be formally requested and approved in advance by the supervisor or the executive director or authorized designee. If a non-exempt employee foresees overtime, a written request must be made by the employee specifying the reason for the overtime and the anticipated amount of overtime. The supervisor/executive director or authorized designee must evaluate alternatives to the overtime prior to approving the request in writing, and prior to the employee's incurring the requested overtime.
3. If the non-exempt employee must work overtime due to unforeseen circumstances, a written request must be made by the employee to the supervisor via email or other communication before the overtime is worked, specifying the reason for the overtime and the anticipated amount of overtime.
4. Overtime will be computed on actual minutes worked, adjusted to the nearest increment of fifteen (15) minutes. Only those hours actually worked may be used to calculate overtime compensation.
5. Eligible employees shall be entitled to compensatory time off or cash payment as overtime compensation. The executive director or authorized designee shall determine the form of overtime compensation based on operational and budgetary needs. Cash payments shall be made in the pay period in which the overtime is earned. Compensatory time off shall accrue and may be used upon approval of the executive director or authorized designee. Compensatory time off

may be accrued up to 90 hours (60 hours at time-and-one-half). The executive director or authorized designee may extend the limit on accrued compensatory time off in excess of 90 hours. Hours accrued in excess of the maximum accruals shall be paid in cash at the appropriate overtime rate.

6. Accrued compensatory time off shall be scheduled and used prior to the use of accrued vacation or holiday time unless the employee is within 12 pay periods of incurring a loss of accrued leave.
7. Upon separation from employment or transfer to a management classification, employees shall be paid in cash for accrued compensatory time off at the appropriate rate.

C. Exempt Employees

1. Exempt employees will not be compensated for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per workweek.
2. An exempt employee in a full-time management position designated by the Agency board of directors as an administrative leave classification shall be entitled to 80 hours of compensated administrative leave per calendar year, which shall be credited on the first payday on or after January 1. Unused administrative leave shall be lost if not used by the end of each calendar year and upon termination. However, in lieu of paid time off under this benefit plan, a management employee may request and receive payment for up to a maximum of 40 hours of unused administrative leave. Payment shall be made at the base hourly rate, without add-ons. A request for payment may be made in November or December and will be granted only if the employee has already taken at least 80 hours of vacation and/or administrative leave between the preceding January 1 and the date of request for payment.

5.05.100 - PAYMENT OF WAGES

POLICY

- A. The Agency pays its employees on a biweekly basis. Following are the guidelines used for payment of wages.

GUIDELINES

B. Pay Dates/Pay Periods

1. All employees of the Agency are paid every other Friday for work performed during the previous two-week pay period. The pay dates will also be posted in the lunch area of the office.

2. Employees are paid for work performed during the previous pay period. If a regular payday falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, employees will be paid on the preceding workday.
3. By law, required deductions must be made in each pay period for federal and state income taxes and state disability insurance.
4. If there is a discrepancy in pay or the employee feels that payroll made a mistake, he/she should notify payroll or the executive director or authorized designee immediately, who will address the issue within a reasonable amount of time.

C. Timekeeping Requirements

1. Accurate recording of time worked is the responsibility of every employee. Federal and state laws require the Agency to keep an accurate record of time worked in order to calculate employee pay and benefits. Time worked is all the time actually spent on the job performing assigned duties.
2. Because the Agency bills all or part of the time spent by most employees to specific projects for accounting and reimbursement purposes, all employees must also complete accurate time sheets by work elements and submit them promptly by the due dates.
3. All employees must keep timesheets and accurately record actual time worked, as well as days taken off for vacation, sick or personal leave. Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime pay.
4. Both exempt and non-exempt employees must indicate the allocation of their hours worked to the appropriate project budget and/or work element.
5. Any errors on a timesheet should be reported immediately to the supervisor, who will attempt to correct legitimate errors.
6. It is the employee's responsibility to certify the accuracy of all time recorded. Supervisors must review and then approve the time sheets before submitting them for payroll processing. Tampering, altering, or falsifying time or billing records may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

D. Automatic Payroll Deposit

1. The Agency may offer automatic payroll deposit for all employees. The employee may begin and stop automatic payroll deposit at any time. To begin automatic

payroll deposit, the employee must inform payroll one pay period prior to the pay period that the service is to begin. The employee should monitor his/her payroll deposit for the first two pay periods after the service begins. A voided check showing the employee's account number must be submitted with a request for automatic payroll deposit. To stop automatic payroll deposits, employees should inform payroll one pay period prior to the pay period in which they wish to stop the automatic service.

5.05.110 - ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

A. POLICY

1. Consistent attendance and punctuality are required standards for the Agency's business operation, and therefore an integral part of each employee's performance standard. Poor, uncertain, or irregular attendance produces disruptive results for operations, lowers overall productivity and continuity of work, and is burdensome to other employees.
2. Employees are required to report to their designated work location at the prescribed time work activity is to commence. Tardiness, un-excused absences, and/or failure to report as required is/are not acceptable.
3. In all cases of an employee's absence, the employee should provide the supervisor with a truthful reason for the absence and, if applicable, the probable duration of the absence. Employees unable to adhere to the Agency's attendance policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

B. GUIDELINES

1. If an employee is unable to report to work on time due to illness, injury, or any other reason, the employee should notify or cause to be notified his/her immediate supervisor, or if that person is unavailable, the receptionist followed with a voice mail message or email about the reason for the absence to the employee's supervisor within an hour of the employee's schedule start time, or as soon as reasonably possible.
2. Excessive or repetitive tardiness or absenteeism, regardless of reason(s), which renders an employee insufficiently available for work or negatively impairs the operations of the Agency, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the merits of disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
3. Employees absent without calling in to report the absence may be considered to have voluntarily resigned from employment with the Agency as of the first day of absence. This "no-call/no-show" policy applies to all situations other than extreme emergencies.

5.05.120 - MANDATORY MEETINGS/TRAINING

A. POLICY

1. The Agency must pay employees for attendance at meetings, seminars and training programs under the following conditions:
 - a. The Agency requires attendance.
 - b. The meeting or seminar is directly related to the employee's job.
 - c. The employee who is required to attend such meetings, seminars or training programs will be notified of the necessity for such attendance by his/her supervisor.

B. For non-exempt employees only:

1. Consistent with Policy Section 5.05.090, any hours in excess of the employee's normal 40-hour workweek will be paid at the appropriate overtime rate, if applicable, at the hourly rate in effect at the time the overtime work is being performed, and upon approval by the supervisor.
2. In lieu of overtime pay, the employee may choose compensatory time off at the rate of one and one-half hours per one hour of overtime worked for non-exempt employees. Use of compensation time requires the supervisor's approval.

C. GUIDELINES

1. Employees requesting approval to attend a budgeted seminar or conference should complete a written request, including estimated expenses. The request should be submitted to the supervisor and executive director or authorized designee and must be approved before attending. Itineraries should be arranged in a way that minimizes overtime, if possible. Appropriate meals will be reimbursed with the registration fee or by submitting an employee expense form, with attached receipts unless an IRS per diem rate is approved.
2. If the employee uses his/her own car, mileage reimbursement will be made at the current IRS rate. Travel expenses will be reimbursed upon presentation of required receipts and an employee expense form. Approval of reimbursement must be provided by the executive director or authorized designee. Advances for reimbursable expenses may be made for one-day seminars or workshops on a case-by-case basis.

5.05.130 - STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A. POLICY

1. Like all other organizations, the Agency requires order, discipline, and performance to succeed and to promote efficiency, productivity, and cooperation among employees. It is not possible to list all forms of behavior that are considered unacceptable in the workplace. Examples of conduct that is prohibited and will not be tolerated by the Agency are listed below. This list is illustrative only, other types of conduct that threaten the security, personal safety and welfare of employees and/or the Agency's operations are also prohibited.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Any actions such as the examples of misconduct listed below will be cause for the Agency to discipline the employee, up to and including termination of employment. These statements of prohibited conduct do not alter the Agency's policy of at-will employment where either the employee or the Agency remains free to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without reason or advance notice.
2. Disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment may be taken against any employee for unsatisfactory performance or for misconduct including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Absence without leave;
 - b. Misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance or neglect of duty;
 - c. Incompetence;
3. Inefficiency;
4. Insubordination, including but not limited to, failure or refusal to obey the orders or instructions of a supervisor or member of management, or the use of abusive or threatening language toward a supervisor or member of management; violation of any lawful or reasonable regulation or order made or given by a superior officer;
5. Theft or negligent or willful damage to public property;
6. Waste or misuse of public supplies or equipment;
7. Discourteous treatment of members of the public or public officers or employees while on duty.

8. The unlawful manufacture, unlawful distribution, unlawful dispensing, unlawful possession or unlawful use of a controlled substance or alcohol intoxication while on duty, while operating an Agency vehicle ("controlled substance" includes any substance described in Sections 11054 et seq. of the Health and Safety Code);
9. Use of alcohol or controlled substances which interferes with the employee's ability to perform his/her duties;
10. Conviction of any criminal act involving moral turpitude;
11. Disorderly conduct while on duty, while attending any event related to employment, while driving a vehicle while on Agency business, or while on Agency-owned or leased property;
12. Conduct unbecoming an Agency employee which indicates the employee is unfit to perform the employee's job functions while on duty, while attending any event related to employment, while driving a vehicle while on Agency business, or while on Agency-owned or leased property;
13. Conduct unbecoming an Agency employee while off duty which by its inherent nature brings disrepute to the Agency or impairs its credibility with the public or other public agencies this provision is not intended to limit an employee's constitutionally protected speech);
14. Dishonesty, including but not limited to falsifying official records, embezzlement or theft;
15. Fraud in obtaining employment;
16. Violation of any of the provisions of this Manual or other applicable policies, or laws;
17. Violation of the Agency's Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment;
18. Removing or borrowing Agency property without prior authorization;
19. Provoking a fight or fighting during working hours or on Agency property;
20. Carrying firearms or any other dangerous weapons on Agency premises at any time;
21. Causing, creating or participating in a disruption of any kind during working hours on Agency property;

22. Using abusive language at any time on Agency premises;
23. Failing to notify a supervisor when unable to report to work;
24. Unreported absence;
25. Failing to obtain permission to leave work for any reason during normal working hours;
26. Failing to observe working schedules, including rest and lunch periods;
27. Failing to provide a physician's certificate when requested or required to do so;
28. Sleeping on the job or excessive attention to personal matters versus office matters;
29. Mailing, using electronic media, or accepting telephone calls for personal reasons of more than a few minutes during working hours, except in cases of emergency;
30. Working overtime without authorization or refusing to work assigned overtime, except under extenuating circumstances;
31. Wearing disturbing, unprofessional or inappropriate styles of dress or hair while working;
32. Violating any safety, health, security or Agency policy, rule or procedure;
33. Committing a fraudulent act or a breach of trust under any circumstances;
34. Committing or involvement in any act of unlawful harassment of another individual;
35. Unsatisfactory job performance or inability to perform job duties in a satisfactory manner;
36. Any other conduct incompatible with service to the public including behavior in the conduct of Agency business which causes, or would tend to cause, discredit to fall upon the Agency; and;
37. Engaging in any unlawful acts, as governed by state and federal laws.

5.05.140 - DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

A. POLICY

1. Each Agency employee should perform his or her own work for the Agency in compliance with high standards of performance and behavior required in a professional workplace and consistent with the Agency policy. Each employee is responsible for correcting any unsatisfactory performance or behavior in order to maintain high workplace standards. Failure to meet such standards shall be grounds for appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
2. The procedures set forth in this Section shall not apply to probationary employees who are rejected during probation. These procedures shall not apply to a reduction in force, or a reduction in pay which is part of a reclassification action or reorganization approved by the board of directors.
3. Time limits and formal steps may be waived by mutual written consent of the parties.

B. GUIDELINES

1. If an employee's performance or behavior is unsatisfactory or deficient, the employee may face disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. The executive director or authorized designee has the right to determine what disciplinary action is appropriate based on the facts of each case. Any disciplinary action will be related to the severity of the performance or behavioral deficiency, its frequency, its consequences and the employee's record of prior performance and behavior.
2. The executive director may take disciplinary actions regarding an employee's unsatisfactory or deficient performance or behavior and propose corrective actions which the employee should take to bring performance or behavior to expected standards including, but not limited to:
 - a. Verbal counseling.
 - b. Written notice or reprimand: A reprimand, the details of which are committed to writing and placed in the employee's personnel file. An employee receiving a written reprimand may, within five working days, appeal such action to the executive director or authorized designee. Within five working days thereafter, the executive director or authorized designee shall respond to the employee in writing by either granting in whole or part or denying the appeal. Such response shall be final.
 - c. Intermediate Disciplinary Action: Suspension of employee from work with or without pay; demotion of employee from current position to lower-paid position or class; and/or reduction in base pay. An employee receiving a suspension without pay, demotion, or reduction in base pay shall be afforded

the opportunity to clear him/herself through the notice and response provisions below. Following a review of the proposed disciplinary action, the executive director or authorized designee shall issue a decision based upon the facts presented and the employee's response. If any proposed disciplinary action is to be implemented, the decision shall include the specific findings made against the employee, the effective date of the action, and reference to this article regarding possible further appeal of the decision.

3. Severe Disciplinary Action: Termination of employment. An employee whose employment is proposed to be terminated shall be afforded the procedural protections noted below. Subject to the provisions of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, any employee can be terminated from employment because of mental or physical inability to perform the essential functions of the employee's job even with reasonable accommodations, as determined by a medical or mental examination. Likewise, an employee who voluntarily quits employment through unauthorized absence may be considered to have abandoned his/her position.
- C. The Agency is not required to treat each form of discipline as a step in a series to be followed with an employee before termination of employment. A serious or major performance or behavioral deficiency may result in a more severe disciplinary action, including immediate termination of employment, and may not necessarily be preceded by less severe forms of disciplinary action.
- D. RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION: An employee subject to a meeting or an investigation that may result in disciplinary action, a pre-disciplinary conference or an appeal hearing has the right to be represented by a representative of his/her choice or an attorney retained by the employee at the employee's expense.

5.05.150 - DISCIPLINARY APPEALS PROCEDURE

- A. Prior to imposing any disciplinary action, except verbal counseling or written notice or reprimand, the Agency will meet with the employee to inform the employee about the proposed disciplinary action, the basis for the disciplinary action, including the employee's unsatisfactory or deficient performance or behavior, the severity, frequency and/or consequences of such performance or behavior and any other reasons why such disciplinary action is being imposed. Agency representatives shall include the executive director and may include Agency legal counsel and the Agency human resources contract provider. The employee will be given a reasonable opportunity to respond orally and/or in writing.
- B. The following procedures shall be the exclusive means of appeal available to a disciplined employee, depending on the severity of discipline proposed. Disciplinary action may be implemented prior to the completion of any of the listed appeals procedures.

1. Notice: The employee shall be advised in writing of the proposed disciplinary action when such action is to result in demotion, suspension without pay, or discharge. The written statement shall contain:
 - a. A description of the events which necessitated the proposed disciplinary action;
 - b. A statement of the charges;
 - c. A statement of the proposed disciplinary action;
 - d. A copy of the materials, if any, upon which the proposed personnel action is based and notification that the employee may review or make copies of available materials, if any, which are too numerous to supply with the notice;
 - e. A statement of the employee's right to representation; and
 - f. Notification of the employee's right to meet with the executive director or authorized designee or to submit in writing his/her response to the proposed action, and the date by which the meeting must be requested, or the written response submitted.
2. Employee's Response:
 - a. Since the purpose of the response meeting is to enable the Agency to avoid error in taking disciplinary action, any evidence within the employee's knowledge or that of his/her representative's or which is accessible to them which is not presented in this response meeting or otherwise presented to the executive director or authorized designee prior to the taking of final action cannot be presented in any subsequent proceeding.
 - b. An employee's opportunity to respond to the designated management representative is not intended to be an adversary hearing. However, the employee may present the names of witnesses in support of his/her opposition to the proposed demotion, suspension, reduction in pay or discharge. The limited nature of this response does not obviate the executive director or authorized designee to initiate further investigation if the employee's version of the facts raises doubts as to the accuracy of the initial information leading to the proposed discipline. The employee may be accompanied and represented by a person of the employee's choice during the meeting.

5.05.160 - TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

A. POLICY

1. The executive director or authorized designee may separate employees from employment as necessary and as provided by these policies. Reasons for employee termination from employment include, but are not limited to, dismissal during the probationary period, dismissal by disciplinary action, resignation, death, unexcused absence, disability or medical condition that prevents the employee from performing the essential functions of his/her job even with reasonable accommodations, retirement, or layoff.
2. All employees will be paid in full for accrued and unused vacation and compensatory time off on the last day of employment or within the appropriate timeframe based on federal and state laws.
3. Employees will be advised of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), if applicable.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Resignation - An employee who desires to terminate his/her employment is encouraged to submit a written resignation at least two weeks before the intended resignation date. Supervisors are encouraged to give 30 working days' notice of intent to resign.
2. Non-disciplinary Separation from Employment - The executive director or authorized designee may initiate non-disciplinary separation from employment of an employee for reasons of job abandonment, failure to return to work following an approved leave, enforcement of the Employment of Relatives policy, physical or mental disability that cannot be reasonably accommodated, or other similar non-disciplinary reasons. Employees in positions which require driving as an essential duty may be subject to non-disciplinary separation from employment in the event of denial/exclusions of coverage by the insurance carrier or failure to maintain a valid driver's license.

The executive director or authorized designee shall provide written notice to any employee separated from employment for non-disciplinary reasons. The effective date of employment termination may be determined by the executive director or authorized designee to be the last actual day at work or the date the written notice is signed or a future date. Upon receipt of notice of non-disciplinary separation from employment, the employee may accept the decision or within five days submit a written request to executive director for informal reconsideration of the employment separation decision. Such request must include a statement of facts or information which the employee believes will give the executive director or authorized designee good reason to change the termination decision. The

executive director or authorized designee will respond to any such request for informal reconsideration.

3. Organizational Changes - The Agency exercises complete control and discretion over its organization and the methods of performing its work. Whenever in the judgment of the executive director or authorized designee it becomes necessary in the interest of economy and efficiency or because the need for the performance of duties no longer exists, the executive director or authorized designee may eliminate or consolidate any positions.
4. Reduction in Force - At times, the Agency may need to restructure or reduce its workforce. If it becomes necessary to restructure operations or reduce the number of employees, the Agency will attempt to provide advance notice, if possible, so as to minimize the impact on affected employees.
5. Retirement - An employee planning to retire shall submit a written notice at least 30 days before the effective date of retirement.
6. Final Paycheck - Although it is requested that an employee give two-week notice before resigning, if an employee provides a 72-hour notice, the employee will receive the final paycheck on the last day of work. If less than a 72-hour notice is given, the Agency shall release the final check within 72 hours of when notice is given.

If the employee is terminated involuntarily, a final paycheck will be provided on the day of termination.

7. Return of Agency Property - Upon termination of employment, employees are required to return or provide all equipment, keys, ID cards, Agency login/password/account information, emergency passes, equipment, laptops, emails, computer files, any electronic storage devices, and other Agency property prior to leaving the Agency.
8. Continuation of Group Health Benefits (COBRA) - In accordance with federal and state law, employees and their families, at their expense, may have a temporary extension of health coverage at group rates in certain instances where coverage under the plan would otherwise terminate. The employee may contact the executive director or authorized designee for more information regarding this benefit.

5.05.170 - COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

A. POLICY

1. The Agency recognizes the benefit of providing an orderly and expeditious method for resolving problems which may arise from working relationships and conditions. It is the Agency's policy to provide an orderly method for handling problems and complaints in the interest of obtaining fair and equitable solutions.
2. Employees shall be advised that using this process shall not affect their job status, security or relationship. Employees can exercise this complaint resolution process without retribution.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Any employee has the right to present a problem or complaint arising from his/her employment in accordance with the rules and regulations of this policy. This policy does not apply to disciplinary actions which are addressed in Section 5.05.140
2. All parties involved in the problem-solving process must act in good faith and strive for objectivity, while attempting to reach a solution at the earliest possible step of the procedure. Employees shall have the assurance that bringing forward a problem or complaint will not result in reprisal of any nature.
3. The Agency is committed to ensuring a prompt and fair problem resolution process, including any necessary investigation process. At the discretion of the executive director or authorized designee and/or the employee's supervisor (unless otherwise required by law), the employee may be allowed to use Agency facilities and work time to deal with their problem or complaint and to go through the complaint resolution process. The use of any office time for this purpose shall not be excessive, nor shall this privilege be abused.
4. In gathering information on a problem or complaint, the employee may discuss the problem or complaint with employees immediately concerned after obtaining permission from their immediate supervisor; and review all documents, records or data related to the situation. A list of such employees must be submitted to the employee's supervisor in advance.

Upon obtaining permission from their immediate supervisor, the employee shall be permitted to leave the normal work area during on-duty time for such time as is necessary to prepare a written complaint.

If any involved supervisor feels that the time requested would unduly interfere with an adequate level of service, alternative arrangements may be made.

5. Certain time limits in the problem-solving procedure are designed to settle the problem or complaint. The Agency realizes, however, that occasionally the parties concerned may be unable to comply with the established limitations. In such

instances, the limitations may be extended upon the mutual agreement of all parties concerned.

6. When two or more employees experience a common problem, they may initiate a single problem-solving process.

C. INFORMAL RESOLUTION

1. Within 20 days from the event giving rise to a complaint or from the date the employee could reasonably have been expected to have had knowledge of such event, the complaining employee shall orally discuss his/her complaint with his/her immediate supervisor. The supervisor shall have seven days within which to respond. If the employee is dissatisfied with the response to the complaint, or if he/she receives no response, the employee may, within 14 days after the supervisor's response was due, submit the complaint as a grievance in accordance with the following procedure.

D. FORMAL PROCESS

1. Step 1: If a complaining employee is not satisfied with the resolution proposed at the informal level, he/she may, within 14 days after the supervisor's response was due, file a formal written grievance to the executive director or authorized designee containing a statement describing the grievance, the section of the applicable HR policy allegedly violated, and the remedy requested. The executive director or authorized designee shall, within seven days, have a meeting with the grievant and within seven days thereafter give a written answer to the grievant.
2. Step 2: If the grievant is not satisfied with the answer or if the executive director is the subject of the complaint, the grievant may, within seven days from the receipt of such answer, file a written appeal/complaint to the SRTA general counsel. Within 30 days of receipt of the written appeal, the general counsel, in conjunction with the Agency human resources contract provider, and the board of directors or human resources committee, shall investigate the grievance, which may include a meeting with the concerned parties, and thereafter give a written decision to the grievant within seven days.

Chapter 5.10 - BENEFITS

5.10.010 - HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

A. POLICY

1. The Agency provides its eligible employees access to comprehensive health and welfare insurance protection including medical, dental, vision, life and long-term disability insurance. The enrollment and/or cancellation date for all insurance

coverage is the 1st of each month, unless otherwise indicated. For example, if an employee's first day of employment is January 15, the first possible enrollment date for the above-mentioned insurance plans is February 1.

The Agency also provides retirement benefits and other optional benefit plans as outlined below.

Short-term disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance protection are provided to each employee pursuant to state legal mandates.

B. GUIDELINES

Medical Benefits

1. The Agency offers medical insurance to all full-time employees and their dependents through CalPERS. Employees may enroll their spouse, eligible children or registered domestic partners and eligible children of registered domestic partners, according to the rules and guidelines of the health plan. Based on the PERChoice medical plan premiums (or equivalent) applicable to the area, the Agency will pay for 85% of the Employee Only medical premium, 65% of the Employee Plus One Dependent medical premium, and 65% of the Employee Plus Family (i.e., two or more dependents) medical premium.
2. Part-time employees are eligible for medical benefits through CalPERS; however, the Agency will only pay the minimum provided under the Agency contract with CalPERS under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA).
3. Retiree medical benefits are also offered to employees eligible for medical insurance as determined by the board of directors and consistent with CalPERS requirements under the state Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA). SRTA is legally required only to pay the PEMHCA minimum in medical premiums for active and retired employees. However, SRTA has elected to pay amounts above the PEMHCA minimum for full-time employees, administered consistent with PEMHCA standards, as follows:
 - a. All full-time employees hired prior to July 1, 2012, who retire from the Agency, shall receive up to 100% of the employer-share of medical insurance premiums currently in effect for active employees.
 - b. *Alternately, effective July 1, 2016, the employee may elect to participate in Section (e) below. Such election shall be in-lieu of the above offer and in effect and irrevocable upon election made in writing. Participation in this option precludes the employee from receiving any Agency retiree premium payment above the required PEMHCA minimum.*

- c. All full-time employees hired between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2016, who retire from the Agency shall receive 25% of the employer-share medical premiums after five years of service. Vesting will continue at 2.5% per year until fifteen years of total service at which time the employee is fully vested at a 50% maximum contribution rate.
 - d. *Alternately, effective July 1, 2016, the employee may elect to participate in Section (e) below. Such election shall be in-lieu of the above offer and in effect and irrevocable upon election made in writing. Participation in this option precludes the employee from receiving any Agency retiree premium payment above the required PEMHCA minimum.*
 - e. All other employees who qualify for CalPERS medical insurance under this section, may elect to participate in an in-lieu retiree medical plan where the Agency will match up to 3% of an employee's annual compensation to a retirement savings plan on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The employee shall immediately vest in all Agency contributions. Eligible retirement savings plans made available by the Agency include IRS Section 457 and 401(a) plans and may include other plans approved by the board of directors.
- 4. The Agency offers, at no cost to all employees, an additional health and wellness management program that permits around-the-clock remote access to health care providers to receive medical consultations and prescriptions without an in-person doctor visit.

C. Dental Benefits

- 1. Dental benefits are offered to all full-time employees and dependents. The Agency will pay for 63% of the Employee Only dental premium, 56% of the Employee Plus One Dependent dental premium, and 46% of the Employee Plus Family (i.e., two or more dependents) dental premium. Exact dollar amounts will be determined by board of directors' resolution. Any questions on dental coverage can be answered by calling the insurance carrier or contacting the Agency's executive director or authorized designee. Dental coverage is not available to a retiree or his/her spouse or registered domestic partner or other eligible family members.

D. Vision Care

- 1. The Agency provides vision care to all full-time employees through an independent carrier as a part of the employee benefit program. The Agency will pay for 100% of the Employee Only vision premium; the cost for any dependents will be borne by the employee. An explanation of the plan can be provided by the executive director or authorized designee. Vision coverage is not available to a

retiree or his/her spouse or registered domestic partner or other eligible family members.

E. Group Term Life Insurance

1. The Agency provides group term life insurance for all full-time employees, with a minimum coverage of \$25,000. Group term life insurance will be combined with accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. Consult the SRTA benefits administrator for further information.

F. Long-Term Disability Insurance

1. All full-time employees are offered a long-term disability insurance program through group coverage at the Agency's cost. Consult the SRTA benefits administrator for further information.

G. Short-Term Disability Plan (SDI)

1. All Agency employees participate in the State of California's short-term disability insurance program (SDI). This plan assists employees required to be off work due to a non-work-related illness or injury. This program is paid for by the employee through payroll deductions. Consult the SRTA benefits administrator for further information.

H. Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

1. Employees and dependents who lose group coverage due to termination of employment or other "qualifying events" (i.e., death of employee, divorce or separation) may continue health, dental and vision coverage on a self-pay basis under the COBRA option.
2. Upon an employee's or dependent's loss of coverage, the executive director or authorized designee will issue a Notice of Right to Elect COBRA Continuation Coverage for health, dental and vision coverage. To continue coverage under COBRA, the employee should fill out and sign forms provided by the executive director or authorized designee. Continuation of coverage is paid by the terminating employee directly to the health plan carrier.

I. Paid Family Leave (PFL)

1. Paid Family Leave (PFL) is a state-sponsored insurance program within the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program. Through PFL, all employees receive partial wage replacement while on leave from work to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, to bond with a child, or to participate in a qualifying event because of a family member's military deployment. The benefits of this program,

paid for by the employee through payroll deductions, can be explained in more detail by the SRTA benefits administrator.

J. Unemployment Insurance

1. Unemployment insurance provides compensation payable to people unemployed through no fault of their own, who are actively seeking employment and are available and able to work. The Agency pays the entire cost of unemployment benefits for former employees through taxes paid to the state. To receive more detailed information regarding the coverage, please contact the executive director or authorized designee.

K. Retirement Benefits

1. Full-time employees are required to participate in the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). Part-time employees are required to participate after being employed by the Agency for more than 1,000 hours annually, unless otherwise required by CalPERS. Employees participating in CalPERS are covered under the 1959 Survivor Benefits Program in the event of death prior to retirement.
2. For “legacy” employees, the benefit formula for retirement is 2.0% at age 55 and the employee shall contribute to CalPERS each pay period the entire 7% employee contribution. An employee’s final compensation for purposes of determining retirement shall be based on the highest twelve months of compensation consistent with the board of directors approved agreement with CalPERS.
3. For “non-legacy” employees hired on or after January 1, 2013, the benefit formula shall be pursuant to the California Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act. Consult the SRTA benefits administrator for further information.

L. Supplemental and In-lieu Retirement Plan

1. As part of the benefits program, the Agency provides to all employees a deferred compensation plan. Employees may contribute to the plan on a voluntary basis.
2. For the period of time in which SRTA does not participate in Social Security, the Agency offers employees a payment into an alternative retirement or deferred compensation plan. The payment is equivalent to the 6.2% of qualifying payroll the Agency would otherwise pay towards employees’ Social Security benefits. This 6.2% rate will remain fixed, even if actual Social Security employer contribution requirements change. The board of directors will determine by resolution the type of Agency-sponsored plans that will be implemented.

M. Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

1. All employees shall be entitled to utilize the services contained in the EAP plan as offered and paid for by the Agency.

5.10.020 - MANAGEMENT BENEFITS (Amended 6/30/22)

- A. The board of directors recognizes the greater responsibilities inherent in a management position.

There are two levels of management:

1. Executive Management: Only the executive director is considered executive management.
2. Management: Other management positions that are exempt and have direct supervisory responsibility as stated in the job description and as designated by the board of directors.

B. SICK LEAVE RETENTION INCENTIVE

1. Upon retiring under the provisions of CalPERS, or upon death, unused sick leave accrued by a management employee shall be paid in accordance with the table below. Upon resignation, the employee shall be entitled to either a) a maximum payment of 50% of that provided for under retirement or death, or b) the maximum provided non-management employees by the appropriate formula, whichever is greater. This will apply in all cases, except for termination of employment for cause.
2. These provisions are applicable for retirement or death whether or not a portion of the accrual was earned in a position other than that from which the employee is terminating.

Years of Continuous Service	Percentage of Accrual Subject to Compensation
5 through 9	20% of first 30 days, 10% of accrual balance
10 through 14	40% of first 60 days, 15% of accrual balance
15 through 19	60% of first 60 days, 30% of accrual balance
20 or more	80% of first 60 days, 45% of accrual balance

3. As an option to the above payoff provisions, a retiring employee may request in writing for pre-retirement time off, in lieu of equivalent direct compensation. Such time off is to be computed on the basis of dividing the total eligible payoff by the employee's daily rate as of when the requested time would be used by the employee. It shall be taken as full-time off immediately prior to his/her stated

retirement date to the extent of the computed number of days of eligibility. Employees shall not accrue any additional leave benefits while running out accrued sick leave prior to retiring. This option, once requested and granted, is binding on the SRTA and the employee.

4. An employee retiring may convert some or all of his/her accumulated but unused sick leave to CalPERS service credit upon retirement. Any sick leave utilized for cash payment as provided in the above sections shall not be available for such conversion.
5. Employees who are depleting leave balances (including vacation, sick leave or administrative leave) immediately prior to retirement shall not be eligible for holiday pay or accrual, which might otherwise accrue during the leave period.

C. LIFE INSURANCE

1. The Agency shall provide a group life and accidental death and dismemberment policy at Agency expense equal to each management employee's actual base salary. In no event shall such amount be less than \$50,000, nor more than \$80,000. Management employees shall be allowed to purchase additional insurance in an amount up to three times annual salary at the employee's own expense.

D. SALARIED STATUS

Employees occupying positions designated as management positions are salaried employees and are exempt from the overtime provisions of FLSA. For payroll purposes, such employees are compensated on a biweekly salary basis. The provisions of such salaried status are as follows:

1. For the performance of prescribed duties, a management employee receives a salary and is expected to work the necessary hours required to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.
2. For absences of one full workday or more, a management employee will deduct such time from the employee's applicable vacation, sick leave or administrative leave accrual.
3. Subject to approval by the executive director or authorized designee, reasonable time off of amounts of less than one full workday is authorized for a management employee for personal use during normal work hours, without loss of salary.
4. In addition to Chapter 5.10 above, when an employee is medically required to work part time on a temporary basis (of at least ten work days or more) or who

otherwise requests a part time schedule on a temporary basis (of at least ten work days or more), and the employee's request is approved by the executive director or authorized designee, the employee's partial day absences during that time will be deducted from the employee's leave balances and the employee will receive his/her full salary. However, if the employee is medically required to work part time on a permanent basis, or the employee otherwise requests a part time schedule on a permanent basis, and the employee's request is approved by the executive director or authorized designee, the Agency will reduce the employee's allocation to reflect the expected reduced work schedule (for example .5 FTE for half time work instead of 1.00 FTE) and the employee will receive a salary commensurate with the reduced permanent allocation.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

1. 1. A management employee is entitled to 80 hours of administrative leave per calendar year, which shall be lost if not used by the end of the year. This time will be credited on the first payday on or after January 1 and is neither accumulative from year to year nor to be considered part of earned vacation accrual. A new eligible employee will receive a portion of the time, in advance, on a prorated basis consistent with his/her date of appointment.
2. Pre-retirement Leave: employees who are depleting leave balances immediately prior to retirement shall not be eligible for additional administrative leave credit which might otherwise accrue during the leave period.
3. A management employee separating from Agency employment will not receive payment for unused administrative leave.

F. MANAGEMENT PAY DIFFERENTIAL

1. Principles of a Management Pay Differential: The salary of an employee in a management classification should be set at a range that is at least 5% more (F step to F step comparison including subordinates' pay stipends, if appropriate) than the subordinate classifications the manager is required to supervise. This concept includes as a principle that the manager be responsible for performance evaluations, direction of the work performed, and input into the hiring and discipline process.
2. Process for Management Pay Differential: A manager may apply in writing to the executive director or authorized designee for consideration of a pay class stipend if a subordinate classification is at a salary range that is not at least 5% less than the manager's classification. Such stipends will be granted in one-half percent (.5%) increments. When applied, the effect of this stipend will be that the manager's salary range will be 5% above the subordinate's salary range (based on F step comparisons including subordinates pay stipends, if appropriate), without

regard to the salary step of the current subordinate. The pay stipend will be processed as a salary earnings type on a personnel action. The executive director or authorized designee will review the stipend periodically for continued appropriateness or when classifications are changed due to reclassification, salary and benefit changes, or other such changes. The decision of the executive director or authorized designee to grant or not grant a pay stipend is final unless the manager appeals to the board of directors. The findings of the board are final.

5.10.030 - HOLIDAYS

A. The following are official holidays for full-time employees:

1. January 1, New Year's Day
2. The third Monday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (this will be a floating holiday)
3. February 12, Lincoln's Birthday (this will be a floating holiday)
4. The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day
5. The last Monday in May, Memorial Day
6. July 4, Independence Day
7. The first Monday in September, Labor Day
8. November 11, Veterans' Day
9. The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day
10. The day following Thanksgiving Day
11. December 24, Christmas Eve
12. December 25, Christmas Day

B. EQUIVALENT TIME OFF OR PAY FOR HOLIDAYS

1. Holiday Pay and Accrual

- a. Full-Time Employees with an approved 40-hour workweek shall receive compensation for up to eight hours of holiday pay for each holiday. Full-time employees working less than a 40-hour workweek (but not less than a 30-hour

workweek) shall receive a pro-rated holiday credit based on their approved regular work schedule pursuant to Section 5.05.080 (C) of this Manual.

b. Part-Time Employees shall not receive holiday pay.

C. HOLIDAYS FALLING ON WEEKEND DAYS

1. When a holiday listed above falls on Sunday, Monday will be observed as the paid holiday in lieu thereof. When a holiday listed above falls on a Saturday, the immediately preceding Friday shall be observed as the paid holiday in lieu thereof. In those years in which December 24 falls on a Friday, December 23 shall be observed as the paid holiday in lieu thereof. In those years in which December 25 falls on a Monday, December 26 shall be observed as the paid holiday in lieu thereof.

D. COMPENSATION FOR WORK ON HOLIDAYS

1. If a full-time employee is required to work on a holiday, he/she shall be paid at their regular rate of pay in addition to the holiday pay.

E. FLOATING HOLIDAYS

1. As shown above, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Lincoln's Birthday will be floating holidays. Full-time employees shall be granted up to 16 hours of floating holiday credit at the beginning of each calendar year. Full-time employees working less than a 40-hour workweek (but not less than a 30-hour workweek) shall receive a pro-rated holiday credit based on their approved regular work schedule pursuant to Section 5.05.080 (C) of this Manual. Employees must schedule any floating holiday with advance notification of and approval by the supervisor. Floating holidays are not accruable and those unused at the end of the calendar year will be eliminated from the employee's available leave bank and may not be cashed out. Floating holidays are not considered vacation and may not be cashed out upon separation from the agency.

5.10.040 - VACATION

A. ACCRUAL SCHEDULE

1. Full-time employees shall accrue the following hours-- vacation time for each paid regularly scheduled working hour. Vacation shall not accrue for any hours worked in excess of the regularly scheduled work week.

Years of Continuous Service	Vacation Hours Accrued Per Hour	Equivalent Days Per Year
0 through 3	.0385	10

4 through 9	.0577	15
10 through 15	.0654	17
16 and thereafter	.0769	20

B. TIMES AND CONDITIONS OF TAKING VACATION

1. All vacation time must be approved in advance by the executive director or designee. Any compensation time earned and available shall generally be used prior to using vacation time. No employee shall be allowed paid vacation time off in excess of that accrued.
2. The maximum vacation accumulation which may be accrued by a full-time non-management employee without losing additional credit shall be 78 times the bi-weekly rate of accumulation of a full-time employee. The maximum time limits for vacation accrual shall be extended by the executive director or authorized designee as follows:
 - a. For up to 13 pay periods if the executive director or authorized designee cancelled a previously scheduled employee vacation or rejected a timely employee vacation request if the executive director or authorized designee determines that circumstances so warrant.
 - b. For a period of any paid leave of absence due to illness or injury, plus, at the discretion of the executive director or authorized designee, up to 13 pay periods, if an employee attains maximum accumulation during such leave.
 - c. Additional time accrued by an employee under paragraph 2 above shall not be lost at the end of the extension; provided, the employee takes time off to reduce his/her maximum accumulation to that provided under "a" above within the 26 pay periods immediately following the extension. Such an extension shall not be approved more than once in each calendar year.
2. The maximum vacation accumulation which may be accrued by a management employee without losing additional credit shall be 104 times the employee's biweekly accrual rate.

C. PAYMENT IN LIEU

1. Any person terminating employment, or who is laid off, or who is granted military leave of absence, other than temporary military leave for a period not exceeding six months, shall be entitled to payment in lieu of earned vacation not taken at the equivalent hourly rate of salary.

2. Persons retiring under the provisions of the Public Employees' Retirement System may remain on the payroll on vacation status until such accumulated vacation time for which they are eligible has been exhausted. An appointing authority may fill such a position immediately following the last day actually worked, provided funds are available.
3. Employees shall not accrue additional paid leave benefits while running out accumulated vacation time immediately prior to the final day of paid status.

5.10.050 - SICK LEAVE

A. EARNED ACCRUAL RATE

1. All employees shall accrue 0.0462 hours of sick leave for each regularly scheduled working hour not to exceed 3.696 hours per pay period. Sick leave shall not accrue for any hours worked in excess of the regularly scheduled work week.

B. USAGE

1. Paid sick leave shall be granted in cases of the diagnosis, care or treatment of an existing health condition or preventive care of an employee or the employee's family member (including a designated person, defined as a person identified by the employee at the time of the sick leave request), as well as in cases of specified purposes for an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.
2. If the need for paid sick leave is foreseeable, the employee is required to provide reasonable advance notice to the Agency. Otherwise, the employee is required to provide notice of the need for sick leave as soon as practicable.

D. EXCEPTIONS

1. Employees on a leave of absence are generally not entitled to paid sick leave benefits for any sickness or disability sustained while on leave other than his/her regular vacation.
2. An employee who becomes ill while on vacation leave and wishes to be placed on sick leave shall make such request to the executive director or authorized designee as soon as practicable.

5.10.060 - SICK LEAVE RETENTION INCENTIVE PAYMENT

A. POLICY

1. Upon separation or termination, other than discharge for cause, an employee shall become entitled to payment for accumulated sick leave in accordance with the table below.

Years of Continuous Service	% of Accumulation Eligible for Cash Payment	Maximum Payment
5 through 9	10.00%	\$3,500
10 through 14	25.00%	\$4,500
15 through 19	37.50%	\$6,000
20 or more	50.00%	\$6,000

B. SICK LEAVE - CalPERS SERVICE CREDIT CONVERSION

1. An employee may convert some or all of his/her accumulated but unused sick leave to CalPERS service credit upon retirement. Any sick leave utilized for cash payment as provided in the above section shall not be available for conversion.

C. STATE DISABILITY/PAID FAMILY LEAVE BENEFITS

1. Disability insurance benefits shall be extended to employees in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Disability Insurance Program. Each employee shall contribute to the plan through payroll deductions. Accrued sick leave can be used to supplement the disability benefit and must be exhausted prior to the use of other accrued leave balances. An employee may elect, in advance, to use accrued vacation, compensatory time off or holiday time to supplement the disability benefit. The total compensation from accrued leaves and disability benefits shall not exceed the employee's base salary at the time of disability. Disability benefits will be considered the primary benefit and leave accruals will be used and treated as secondary to supplement the employee's earnings.
2. Paid Family Leave (PFL) insurance will be administered as described above on page 47, except employees will be required to use sick leave balances after PFL has been exhausted, assuming the employee (1) is not on CFRA leave while receiving wage replacement benefits and (2) the sick leave is not provided under the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act.

5.10.070 - INDUSTRIAL LEAVE

A. POLICY

1. To receive industrial leave, an employee must apply for workers' compensation benefits and supply supportive medical evidence that there was an industrial injury or disease contracted in the course and scope of employment which

prevents the employee from performing his/her duties. Employees should report all on-the-job injuries or illnesses, no matter how slight, to their supervisor immediately. Employees injured at work will receive regular wages for any time lost to obtain medical attention on the date of their accident.

Industrial leave compensation shall be applied to wage loss for the date of injury and subsequent workdays lost during the 30 days immediately following the date of injury. In no event shall compensation exceed 32 hours.

On the fourth consecutive calendar day following the date of injury or illness, provided the employee remains off work, temporary disability benefits will then be paid in accordance with Labor Code §§4650 et seq.

Beginning with the date temporary disability benefits are applicable and every day of covered absence thereafter, in the following order, an employee's sick leave, compensatory time off, administrative leave, and vacation may be charged to assure that, when added to temporary disability benefits paid under workers' compensation, the employee will receive as near to but not exceeding his/her full salary or wage. The employee, at his/her option, may elect any order of application of sick leave, compensatory time, administrative leave, vacation, or none of the preceding benefits if he/she notifies the executive director or authorized designee in writing within 14 days of the date of injury.

The Agency shall continue making its portion of Health Plan payments, including dependent premiums, for employees who are on medical leave without pay due to an on-the-job injury or illness for a maximum of 26 pay periods. In some instances, this benefit may run concurrently with State Disability Insurance or Paid Family Leave benefits. Workers' Compensation benefits shall not be considered as pay when applied to this section.

All employees returning to work following treatment for a work-related injury or illness must present a return-to-work release, signed by the treatment provider. Any employee attempting to return to work without a signed return-to-work release will be referred back to their treatment provider and the Agency may consider time away from work as unexcused.

5.10.080 - BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

A. POLICY

1. An employee who has worked for the Agency for at least 30 days is entitled to five (5) days of bereavement leave for the death of a family member. Family member means spouse, registered domestic partner, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, grandparent, grandchild, parent-in-law, step grandparents, stepparents, stepchildren, stepsisters, stepbrothers, and step grandchildren. The days of bereavement leave do

not need to be consecutive. The leave must be taken within three (3) months of the date of the family member's death. An employee requesting bereavement leave is entitled to use his/her vacation, personal leave, accrued and available sick leave, or other compensatory time off that is available to the employee.

- a. Verification of Bereavement Leave - Satisfactory proof of death may be required at the discretion of the executive director or authorized designee for any use of bereavement leave. Verification of proof of death must be provided within 30 days of the first day of the requested bereavement leave.
2. Full-time employees shall be entitled to bereavement leave without loss of pay or charge against sick leave up to a maximum of 24 working hours (i.e., three days). Full-time employees working less than a 40-hour workweek (but not less than a 30-hour workweek) shall receive pro-rated bereavement pay based on their approved regular work schedule pursuant to Section 5.05.080 (C) of this Manual. Full-time employees are also entitled to additional, unpaid bereavement leave, up to a total of five (5) days of combined paid and unpaid bereavement leave, and may apply his/her vacation, personal leave, accrued and available sick leave, or other compensatory time off that is available to the employee to any unpaid portion of the bereavement leave.

5.10.085 – PERSONAL LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

A. POLICY

1. A non-exempt full-time employee may request up to 10 days per calendar year of unpaid leave for personal reasons. An employee requesting leave without pay should not have any remaining compensatory time off accrued and shall have less than one year's worth of vacation accrual available. No benefits such as sick leave and vacation will accrue when taking unpaid leave under this provision. Requests for leave without pay shall be approved in advance by the executive director or designee in consideration of work duties and deadlines and shall not be unreasonably denied.

5.10.090 – CFRA LEAVE; PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE; AND MISCELLANEOUS EMPLOYEE LEAVE POLICIES

A. POLICY

1. There are many reasons an employee may be placed on temporary leave. Continued pay, benefits and reinstatement rights depend on the employee circumstances, and state and federal requirements. Requests for leave shall be discussed with the Agency human resources contract provider and the executive director. Requests shall be submitted in writing by the employee with sufficient detail for the Agency to make a determination under the applicable policies or

laws. The executive director or authorized designee may grant or deny the requested leave of absence for some or all of the requested period. Requests for leaves shall not be unreasonably denied.

B. RELEASE FROM DUTY

1. When the best interest of the Agency requires the immediate removal of the employee from his/her position, any employee may be released from regularly assigned duties, with pay and benefits, by the executive director or authorized designee for a period not to exceed two weeks of pay based on the employee's approved work schedule. Upon showing of good cause by the executive director or authorized designee, such release from duty may be extended up to an additional two weeks.

C. LEAVE UNDER THE CALIFORNIA FAMILY RIGHTS ACT (CFRA)

1. The California Family Rights Act of 1993 (CFRA) provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave for bonding with a new child by birth, adoption, or foster care placement, for an employee's own serious health condition or that of the employee's child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner, or for a qualifying military exigency. While the law provides only unpaid leave, an employee may choose, or employers may require, use of accrued paid leave while taking CFRA leave under certain circumstances.
2. To qualify for CFRA leave:
 - a. An employee needs to take time off from work for bonding with a new child by birth, adoption, or foster care placement, for their own serious health condition or that of their child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner, or for a qualifying military exigency.
 - b. The employee will have worked more than 12 months for the Agency and have worked at least 1,250 hours in the 12-month period before the date of leave.
 - c. If the employee is taking a leave to bond with a new child by birth, adoption, or foster care placement, the basic minimum duration of the leave is two (2) weeks (though the employee is entitled to a shorter duration of leave on any two occasions), and the employee must conclude the leave within one (1) year of the birth or placement for adoption or foster care.
3. Even if an employee is not eligible for CFRA leave, if the employee is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, she is entitled to take a pregnancy disability leave of up to four (4) months (per pregnancy), depending on the period(s) of actual disability. For more information, please refer to the Pregnancy Disability Leave policy below. If the employee is CFRA-eligible, she has

certain rights to take BOTH a pregnancy disability leave and a CFRA leave for reason of the birth of a child. Both leaves contain a guarantee of reinstatement at the end of the leave, subject to any defense allowed under the law. For pregnancy disability, reinstatement shall be for the same position, with exceptions under certain circumstances. For CFRA, reinstatement shall be for the same or a comparable position.

4. If possible, the employee must provide at least 30 days' advance notice for foreseeable events (such as the expected birth of a child or a planned medical treatment for yourself or of a family member). For events that are unforeseeable, the employee should notify his/her supervisor, the executive director or authorized designee, or human resources, at least verbally, as soon as the employee learns of the need for leave. Failure to comply with these notice rules is grounds for, and may result in, deferral of the requested leave until compliance with this notice policy.
5. Certification from the employee's health care provider may be required before the Agency approves an employee's leave for pregnancy disability or his/her own serious health condition. Certification from the health care provider of an employee's family member who has a serious health condition may also be required before approval of a leave to take care of that family member. When medically necessary, leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced work schedule.
6. An employee who is covered under the Agency's group health insurance plan will be allowed to continue their coverage as if they were actively working. Health insurance benefits will be continued for the duration of CFRA leave, provided the employee continues to pay any insurance premium contributions they were paying before the leave began.

D. PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE/REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

1. Notice: The Agency complies with the Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL) and reasonable accommodation provisions of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).
2. Pregnancy Disability Transfer & Reasonable Accommodations: The Agency will provide reasonable accommodations for a female employee for conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, if she so requests, with the advice of her health care provider. This includes, but is not limited to, temporarily transferring a pregnant female employee to a less strenuous position or to less strenuous duties for the duration of her pregnancy, if she so requests, with the advice of her physician, where that transfer can be reasonably accommodated.

3. **Pregnancy Disability Leave:** If a female employee is disabled by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, or needs to take time off for prenatal care, she is entitled to take an unpaid pregnancy disability leave of up to four months for the period of time she is actually disabled.
 - a. A “four-month leave” means the number of days the employee would normally work within four months. For a full-time employee who works five eight-hour days per week, “four months” means 88 eight-hour days of leave entitlement. For employees who work more or less than five days a week, the number of working days which constitutes “four months” is calculated on a pro rata or proportional basis.
 - b. Leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced work schedule when medically advisable, as determined by the employee’s health care provider.
 - c. A pregnancy disability leave contains a guarantee of reinstatement to the same position subject to any defense allowed under the law. In some instances, an employee may be reinstated to a position that is comparable (same tasks, skills, benefits, and pay).
4. **Notice:** If an employee’s need for a pregnancy disability leave or transfer is foreseeable, she must give the Agency at least 30 days’ prior notice of the need for leave or transfer, preferably in writing. If this is not practicable or the need for leave is unforeseeable, the employee must at least give notice as soon as practicable (generally either the same day or the next business day after learning of the need for leave). Failure to provide such notice may be grounds for delay of leave. Additionally, the employee must consult with the Agency and make a reasonable effort to schedule any planned medical treatment or supervision so as to minimize disruption to Agency operations. Any such scheduling will be subject to the approval of the employee’s health care provider.
5. **Medical Certification & Recertification:** In connection with a request for a pregnancy disability leave or transfer, the employee must provide appropriate medical certification from the relevant health care provider within 15 calendar days after the request for leave, if practicable. If the employee provides at least 30 days’ notice before the commencement of the leave, she should provide the medical certification before leave begins. Failure to timely provide a complete and clear medical certification may be grounds for delay or denial of the leave or transfer, or for non-designation of the leave as Pregnancy Disability Leave.
 - a. The certification indicating disability necessitating a leave should contain:
 - I. The date on which the employee became disabled due to pregnancy.
 - II. The probable duration of the period or periods of disability, and

- III. An explanatory statement that, due to the disability, the employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of her position without undue risk to herself, the successful completion of her pregnancy, or to other persons.
 - b. The certification indicating the medical advisability of a transfer should contain:
 - I. The date on which the need to transfer became medically advisable,
 - II. The probable duration of the period or periods of the need to transfer, and
 - III. An explanatory statement that, due to the employee's pregnancy, the transfer is medically advisable. Additionally, the explanatory statement should contain a description of the accommodation/transfer.

Upon the expiration of the time period which the health care provider originally estimated that the employee needed, the Agency may require the employee to obtain recertification if additional time is requested by the employee.

- 6. Pay Status: Pregnancy Disability Leave is unpaid leave unless an employee has accrued leave balances (including compensatory time off, administrative leave, holiday credit, vacation, and sick leave). Where the employee has accrued leave balances, the following will apply:
 - a. The employee must use accrued sick leave. The employee also has the option, but is not required, to use vacation and other accrued leave balances.
 - b. However, if an employee is receiving wage replacement benefits including, but not limited to, State Disability Insurance (SDI), Paid Family Leave (PFL) insurance, or workers' compensation payments, while taking Pregnancy Disability Leave, the employee will not be required to coordinate accrued leave balances with these benefits unless he/she so chooses. An employee must notify payroll immediately if/when she receives wage replacement benefits and if she wishes accrued leave to be coordinated with these benefits. The substitution of paid leave for unpaid leave does not extend the maximum leave period. Further, in no case may the substitution of paid leave for unpaid leave, or coordinating leave balances with wage replacement benefits, result in the employee receiving more than 100% of his/her salary. If the employee is not eligible to substitute paid leave, she may still be eligible for unpaid Pregnancy Disability Leave. An employee will not earn any additional paid time off during the unpaid portion of his/her leave.

5.10.100 - JURY AND WITNESS DUTY

- A. Full-time employees who are subpoenaed to appear as jurors or witnesses in court cases, other than those of a personal nature, will be paid their full hourly rates based on their approved work schedule. Cases of a “personal nature” do not include cases where an employee is a victim of a crime or abuse seeking to obtain relief (such as a temporary restraining order, restraining order, or other injunctive relief) for their own health, safety or welfare or that of their child.
 - a. The employee is required to report to work if, at the time he/she is released, more than two hours remain to their workday. Upon return, the employee should submit the stamped verification of jury duty receipt issued by the Court. The employee should submit to his/her immediate supervisor a completed leave request form which indicates the day(s) required for attendance if known beforehand or submit the leave request form immediately after.
- B. The Agency shall not discharge or discriminate in any manner against an employee for taking time off to serve on an inquest jury or trial jury as required by law, provided that the employee, prior to taking such time off, gives reasonable notice that he/she is required to serve. Similarly, the Agency shall not discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a victim of a crime or abuse for taking time off to appear in court for any judicial proceeding or to seek any relief (such as a temporary restraining order, restraining order, or other injunctive relief) for their own health, safety or welfare or that of their child. An employee taking time off for the purposes described in this paragraph may use his/her vacation, personal leave, or compensatory time off that is otherwise available.

5.10.110 - VOTING TIME

- A. The Agency wishes to support and encourage employees in their opportunities and responsibilities as citizens to cast their ballots in general election years. Under most circumstances, it is possible for employees to vote either before coming to work or after the end of the workday. If the employee does not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote at a state-wide election, a maximum of two hours of time off with pay at the beginning or end of the regular workday will be given. The employee must request this time off at least two working days before the election if this time off is necessary.

5.10.120 - MILITARY LEAVE

- A. An employee who is a member of the Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the National Guard will be allowed time off in accordance with current provisions of federal and state laws and regulations. Employees may be entitled to

reinstatement upon completion of military service, provided they return or apply for reinstatement within the time required by law. An employee whose spouse is a member of the Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the National Guard may be entitled to leave under certain circumstances. The employee should contact the executive director or authorized designee in advance for information regarding reinstatement rights.

5.10.130 - VOLUNTEER CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL

- A. Employees will be allowed to take time off to perform emergency duty as a volunteer firefighter, peace officer or emergency rescue personnel. If an employee is an official volunteer firefighter, he/she should alert the executive director or authorized designee that they might have to take time off for emergency duty. When taking time off for emergency duty, the supervisor should be advised before doing so when possible.

5.10.140 - SCHOOL APPEARANCE LEAVE

- A. Sometimes, an employee may need to appear at his/her child's or ward's school in connection with disciplinary action by the school. Any time taken off for this purpose will be unpaid.

- B. GUIDELINES

- 1. The employee should give reasonable notice for the planned time off.
- 2. Although the time off is unpaid, employees may use vacation, personal or compensatory time to cover the time taken for the school visit(s).
- 3. The employee must provide, upon the Agency's request, written verification from the school of parental participation specifying the date and time of the event/meeting.
- 4. Employees whose child has been suspended from school will be allowed time off to appear at the school in connection with that suspension after giving reasonable notice to the supervisor.

5.10.150 - VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT

- A. Employees who are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault are allowed to take unpaid time off for certain purposes, including but not limited to, legal proceedings, safety planning or relocation, and obtaining a (temporary) restraining order.

Employees may use accrued vacation, personal leave, or compensatory time to take time off.

- B. Employees who need to take time off must give the Agency reasonable advance notice of their intention unless reasonable notice is not feasible. If the time off is an unscheduled absence, the employee may be required to notify their supervisor as soon as possible of their absence and provide documentation to the Agency within a reasonable time after the absence. Acceptable documentation includes a police report, court order or other evidence from the court, or a note from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate, health care provider, or counselor.

5.10.160 - VICTIMS OF CRIME

- A. An employee who is a victim of a crime that caused physical injury or caused mental injury and a threat of physical injury or whose immediate family member is deceased as a direct result of a crime may take time off to appear in court as a witness in any judicial proceeding or to obtain or attempt to obtain relief.
 - 1. “Crime” is defined as a crime or public offense that would constitute a misdemeanor or felony if it had been committed in California by a competent adult; and
 - 2. “Immediate family member” means a spouse or domestic partner; a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, or legal ward, a child a domestic partner, a child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis (or person to whom the employee stood in loco parentis when the person was a minor); a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the employee or employee’s spouse or domestic partner, or a person who stood in loco parentis when the employee or employee’s spouse or domestic partner was a minor; a biological, foster, or adoptive sibling, a stepsibling, or a half-sibling; and any other person whose close association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship.
 - 3. The absence from work must be in order to attend judicial proceedings or to obtain or attempt to obtain relief related to a crime listed above.
 - 4. Before the employee is absent for such a reason, he/she must provide documentation of the scheduled proceeding. Such notice is typically given to the victim of the crime by a court or government agency setting the hearing, a district attorney or prosecuting attorney’s office or a victim/witness office.
 - 5. If advance notice is not possible, the employee must provide appropriate documentation within a reasonable time after the absence.

6. Any absence from work to attend judicial proceedings will be unpaid, unless the employee chooses to take paid time off, such as accrued vacation or sick leave, or any other accrued paid time off.

5.10.170 - REIMBURSEMENT FOR TUITION AND OTHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION COSTS

- A. It is the policy of SRTA to encourage employees to participate in cost effective training which will improve the quality and timeliness of those services employees provide.
- B. Upon prior approval of the executive director or authorized designee, the Agency will pay for or reimburse an employee for the actual, reasonable, and necessary costs of:
 1. Enrollment in and materials for continuing education classes which are required to maintain licensure or qualification for continued employment, and not taken for the purpose of qualifying for another position or qualifying for non-Agency employment.
 2. Enrollment in and materials for seminars or workshops not exceeding ten class days which are related to the employee's current employment and are not taken for the purpose of qualifying for another position or qualifying for non-Agency employment.
 3. Enrollment in and materials for education classes conducted in a web-based or on-line format, and not taken for the purpose of qualifying for another position or qualifying for non-Agency employment.
- C. For full-time employees, fees for memberships or certifications and related testing, licensing or certifications required or requested by the Agency or supervisor, provided written approval is obtained prior to enrollment.
- D. The executive director or authorized designee may authorize payment for on-site or off-site classes.
- E. Upon the executive director or authorized designee's prior approval, the Agency will pay for or reimburse an employee for the actual, reasonable, and necessary costs of other classes, seminars, or workshops related to the employee's current employment and which are not taken for the purpose of qualifying for another position or non-Agency employment.
- F. Training materials paid for by the Agency are the property of the Agency.

Chapter 5.15 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

5.15.010 - EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES

A. POLICY

1. The Agency has a strict policy regarding the hiring of and other employment actions regarding employees' relatives. The purpose of the policy is to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. Exceptions may be made for paid and unpaid internships at the sole discretion of the executive director or authorized designee.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Members of the immediate family of elected or appointed Agency board of directors' members or alternates will not be appointed to Agency employment.
2. Members of the immediate family of full-time employees will not be appointed to Agency employment, nor will they be transferred, promoted or demoted into the same function, nor be placed in such a position as to evaluate a relative or be in the same line of supervision, if doing so could result in actual or potential problems in supervision, security, safety, or morale, or if doing so could create potential conflicts of interest. Each situation will be addressed based on the individual circumstances of that situation.
3. Members of the immediate family of full-time employees will not be hired on a temporary basis, except for temporary unpaid or minimum wage training positions such as internships.
4. If two employees become married or become otherwise directly related, causing actual or potential problems such as those described above, only one of the employees will be retained with the Agency, unless reasonable accommodations can be made to eliminate the actual or potential problems. The employees will have 30 days to decide which relative will stay with the Agency. If this decision is not made within the time allowed, the executive director or authorized designee will make the decision, taking the employment history and job performance of both employees into account.
5. The Agency defines "relatives" as spouses, children, brother, sister, parents, in-laws, grandparents, grandchildren, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, and registered domestic partners and their children or registered domestic partners' brother,

sister, parent, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew. Step-relatives of the same relationships are also included.

5.15.020 - EMPLOYEE DATING POLICY

A. POLICY

1. Consensual romantic relationships between employees are discouraged. Such relationships can lead to problems with morale, decreased productivity and increased liability. The Agency has a strong policy against sexual harassment and is concerned that consensual romantic relationships might potentially violate the policy. The Agency wants to prevent sexual harassment from occurring in the workplace.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Individuals in supervisory or other influential roles are prohibited from participating in romantic relationships with subordinate employees due to the importance of the appearance of fairness, their access to sensitive information, and their ability to influence others.
2. To help prevent sexual harassment, employees who enter into consensual romantic relationships must:
 - a. Notify the executive director or authorized designee;
 - b. Review the sexual harassment policy and sign an acknowledgment that they have done so; and
 - c. Sign a consensual relationship agreement, stating that (a) the relationship is voluntary, (b) the employees will abide by the sexual harassment policy, (c) the employees will behave professionally at work, (d) the relationship will not affect work, and (e) they will not engage in offensive workplace behavior.

In addition to the above, the Employment of Relatives Policy (Section 5.15.010) will also apply.

Violation of these guidelines will subject the employee to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

5.15.030 - ALCOHOL-FREE AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

A. POLICY

1. The Agency recognizes that the use of drugs or alcohol in the workplace can create health and safety problems for employees and the public they serve. Therefore, it is the Agency's policy that:

- a. Alcohol intoxication or the unlawful manufacture, unlawful distribution, unlawful dispensing, unlawful possession or unlawful use of any controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace while on duty.
- b. Each Agency employee will be notified that as a condition of employment the employee is required to:
 - I. Abide by this policy; and
 - II. Notify the Agency of any criminal drug or alcohol statute conviction (including a plea of nolo contendere) for a violation that occurred in the workplace while on duty, no later than five days after such conviction.
 - III. The Agency will take one or both of the following actions within 30 days of receiving notice of an employee being alcohol or drug-impaired on the job or of the employee's conviction of an alcohol or drug-related offense described in Paragraph b II:
 - A. Require the employee to participate in an alcohol or drug abuse rehabilitation program approved by a federal, state, or local health or law enforcement agency; and
 - B. Take appropriate personnel action against the employee consistent with these Personnel Rules.
 - IV. The focus of this policy is substance abuse prevention through educating employees about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and encouraging rehabilitation of those employees who have such problems. However, this policy does not preclude taking disciplinary action when appropriate. The decision whether to take disciplinary action will be made on a case-by-case basis.
 - V. The Agency shall conduct drug/alcohol abuse awareness programs that inform employees about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace, the availability of drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation programs, the Agency's policy of maintaining a drug-free and alcohol-free workplace, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for alcohol or drug violations.
 - VI. The Agency, through its drug/alcohol abuse awareness program and/or Employee Assistance Program (EAP), shall provide referral to substance abuse counseling services or educational services as appropriate.
 - VII. An Agency employee shall be subject to drug and alcohol testing during working hours upon the executive director or authorized designee's

determination that there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is currently impaired due to the use of drugs or alcohol.

VIII. "Reasonable suspicion" is a belief based on objective facts and reasonable inferences drawn from those facts sufficient to lead a reasonably prudent person to suspect that an employee is under the influence of drugs or alcohol so that the employee's ability to perform the functions of the job is impaired or the employee's ability to perform the job safely is reduced. Any of the following, alone or in combination, may give rise to reasonable suspicion that the employee is currently under the influence of alcohol or a drug and is impaired:

- A. Slurred or excessively rapid speech;
- B. Alcohol odor on breath or clothing;
- C. Unsteady standing, walking or movement;
- D. Pupils dilated or constricted or difficulty focusing eyes;
- E. An accident involving Agency property or equipment;
- F. A physical altercation;
- G. A verbal altercation; provided, however, such altercation shall not, by itself, be considered a basis for reasonable suspicion;
- H. A pattern of unusual behavior, such as hyperactivity, mood swings, hostility, absentmindedness, lethargy or withdrawal;
- I. Ingestion of alcohol or an illegal drug while on Agency premises or while on duty;
- J. Possession of alcohol, an open container, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia;
- K. Substandard work performance, including increased errors or absenteeism, a decrease in quantity or quality of work performed, or deterioration of work relationships; provided, however, that substandard work performance shall not, by itself, be considered a basis for reasonable suspicion; and/or
- L. Information obtained from a reliable person with direct personal knowledge.

- c. The Agency shall abide by the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the California Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990.
- d. This policy shall be applied without bias or prejudice.
- e. Each Agency employee will receive a copy of this policy.

5.15.040 - SMOKING

A. POLICY

- 1. Smoking is prohibited within any public building. Smoking is not allowed on the sidewalk in front of the building if doorways and walkways are blocked or littered, smoke can infiltrate the building's ventilation systems, and such activity is not in compliance with applicable laws and ordinances.
- 2. For purposes of this policy, "smoking" is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, pipes and any other smoking product; dip, chew, chewing tobacco, and any other smokeless product; nicotine delivery devices, such as e-cigarettes, and cannabis products.

5.15.050 - GRATUITIES

A. POLICY

- 1. An employee's obligation under this policy is in addition to and does not in any way change his/her obligation under the Agency's fiscal, accounting and ethics policies.
- 2. An employee may not receive a gratuity from any individual, organization, or vendor doing business with the Agency. All gratuities received or offered to the employee should be reported to the employee's supervisor.
- 3. Gratuities should be refused or returned, and the offer should be reported to the supervisor. For the purpose of this policy, a gratuity is defined as a gift or service rendered to an individual. Gifts include, but are not limited to money, candy, alcoholic beverages, tickets to events, trips, or the use of equipment or property.

Employees are required to comply with the Political Reform Act of 1974 and file Form 700 FPPC, which is a public document intended to disclose potential conflicts of interest.

5.15.060 - SECURITY AND PRIVACY

A. POLICY

1. Desks, storage areas, work areas, lockers, file cabinets, credenzas, computer systems, software, communication systems including email, office telephones, modems, facsimile machines and duplicating machines are Agency property and must be maintained according to this policy. Because all these items are Agency property, employees do not have, and should not expect, any right of privacy regarding this property or the contents of the property.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Neatness - All work areas and items must be kept clean and are to be used only for work purposes, except as provided in this policy.
2. Right of Inspection - The executive director or authorized designee reserves the right, at all times, and without prior notice, to inspect and search any and all Agency property for the purpose of determining whether this policy or any other Agency policy has been violated, or whether further inspection and investigation is necessary for purposes of promoting safety in the workplace or compliance with state and federal laws. Such inspections may be conducted before, during or after business hours.
3. Prior Authorization - Prior authorization must be obtained from the executive director or authorized designee before any Agency property may be removed from the premises.
4. Use of Telephones and Mail -
 - a. Agency-maintained systems - Agency phones and voicemail systems including texting, pagers, and mobile email are maintained by the Agency in order to facilitate Agency business. Therefore, all messages sent, received, composed, and/or stored on these systems are property of the Agency.
 - b. Personal use extremely limited - These systems are to be used by employees in conducting business. Personal use of the systems is allowed to a limited degree. Abuse of telephone privileges may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Any personal long-distance call should only be made using a personal billing card. The use of employer-paid postage for personal correspondence is not permitted.
 - c. Privacy not guaranteed - The Agency reserves the right to access an employee's voicemail (outgoing and incoming), email messages and Agency

computer at any time. The existence of a password on any system is not intended to indicate that messages will remain private.

- d. Erasure not reliable - Employees should be aware that even when a message has been erased, it still may be possible to retrieve it from a backup system. Therefore, employees should not rely on the erasure of messages to assume a message has remained private.
- e. Harassment and discrimination - Messages on the Agency's voicemail and email systems are subject to the same policies regarding harassment and discrimination, as are any other workplace communications. Offensive, harassing or discriminatory content in such messages will not be tolerated.
- f. Representing SRTA - Any phone conversations the employee conducts and voicemails that he/she leaves in the conduct of Agency business are a representation of the Agency and must therefore follow the highest standards of professionalism and business ethics.

5.15.070 - COMPUTER AND EMAIL POLICY

- A. The Agency's computer systems, including any voicemail or email systems, are to be used for business purposes only. The executive director or authorized designee reserves the right to listen to voice mail messages and to access, copy and retain email messages to ensure compliance with this rule, with or without notice to the employee and with or without the employee's absence.
 - 1. Use of Agency Equipment - Employees are permitted to use Agency equipment for occasional, non-Agency purposes during rest and meal periods. Nevertheless, the employee has no right of privacy as to any information or file maintained in or on Agency property or transmitted or stored through the Agency's computer systems, voice mail, email, cell phones, iPhones, other smart phones or PDAs, or other technical resources.
 - 2. Review of Computerized Information - For business necessity and/or for reasonable cause, the executive director or authorized designee may inspect, investigate or search employees' computerized files or transmissions, voice mail, or email. The Agency may override any applicable passwords or codes in accordance with the best interests of the Agency and its employees.
 - 3. Computer Privacy - Employees may access only files or programs, whether computerized or not, that they have permission to enter. Unauthorized review, duplication, dissemination, removal, damage or alteration of files, passwords, computer systems or programs, or other property of the Agency, or improper use of information obtained by unauthorized means, may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

4. Software and Hardware Inventory Procedures - The Agency has established a procedure that establishes an inventory for all computer hardware equipment and software applications on-hand. The inventory is done regularly.
5. Software Licensing - The Agency's policy is to purchase appropriate software licenses for each computer program required for employees to perform their job functions in a timely and efficient manner. It is the Agency's policy to respect all computer software copyrights and adhere to the terms of all software licenses. Software may only be installed on hardware explicitly allowed under the terms and conditions of that particular software's license. Normally, the software is copyrighted by the software developer, and unless explicitly allowed by an existing license, the Agency or its employees have no right to make copies of the software except for backup or archival purposes.
6. Use of Electronic Media - Electronic communication/media may not be used in any manner that would be discriminatory, harassing or obscene, or for any other purpose that is illegal, against Agency policy or not in the best interest of the Agency and its employees.
 - a. Employees who misuse electronic communications and engage in defamation, copyright or trademark infringement, misappropriation of trade secrets, discrimination, harassment, commercial/political/religious solicitations, office gossip or related actions will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
 - b. While employees may occasionally use electronic mail for personal messages, such messages are also property of the Agency and will be treated no differently from any other messages. The Agency reserves the right to access and disclose all messages sent over its electronic mail system.
 - c. Any emails and other informal forms of correspondence an employee writes and sends in the conduct of Agency business are a representation of the Agency and must therefore follow the highest standards of professionalism and business ethics. (Note: the intent here is to cover social media and other emerging electronic communication.)
7. Internet Use - Access to the Internet is provided for business reasons. Incidental and occasional personal use of the internet is permitted by the Agency and should be used with discretion. No use of Internet resources shall include accessing areas, including but not limited to web sites, which are offensive or insulting. This includes areas that contain sexually explicit material, ethnic or racial slurs, or any material that can be construed to be harassment or disparagement of others based on their sex, race, sexual orientation, age, national origin or religious or political beliefs.

- a. Employees may not download or access any material that violates another person or organization's copyrights. This includes, but is not limited to, software, images, and audio recordings (MP3, etc.). If the copyright or license status is unknown or in question, the employee is to presume that access would be a violation of this policy.
- 8. Computer Passwords - Personal passwords may be used for purposes of security, but the use of a personal password does not affect the Agency's ownership of the electronic information. Employees are to provide all passwords to the executive director or authorized designee, who will keep them confidential.
- 9. Remote Access - Remote access to the Agency's network is a privilege granted only to appropriate users at the discretion of the executive director or authorized designee and may be revoked at any time. It is the responsibility of the remote access user to ensure that unauthorized use does not occur at any time.
 - a. When using the remote access technology, the authorized user must acknowledge that their remote machines are a de facto extension of the Agency's network and subject to the same rules, regulations and procedures that apply to Agency owned equipment.
 - b. If a remote access device is lost or security is breached, the Agency reserves the right to disable the device, which may include the loss of all device data.
- 10. Social Media - The Agency does not use, nor does it condone the use of social media in the workplace for any purpose other than work-related and by authorized users. The Agency respects the rights of any employee to maintain a blog or participate in other social networking activities. Blogging or other forms of social media or technology include, but are not limited to, video or wiki postings, sites such as Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter, chat rooms, personal blogs or other similar forms of online journals, diaries or personal newsletters not affiliated with the Agency. In order to protect the Agency's interests and ensure employees focus on their job duties, employees must adhere to the following rules:
 - a. Employees may not post on a blog or participate in other social networking activities during work time or with Agency equipment or property.
 - b. If an employee represents themselves on the Internet as an Agency employee, they are expected to ensure the page content complies with Agency standards, policies and standards of conduct.
 - c. All rules regarding confidential information apply in full to blogs and social networking activities. Any information that cannot be disclosed through a

conversation, a note or an e-mail also cannot be disclosed in a blog or via other social networking.

- d. If an employee mentions the Agency in a blog and also expresses a political opinion or an opinion regarding the Agency's actions, the post must specifically note that the opinion expressed is his/her personal opinion and not the Agency's position.
 - e. Any conduct which under the law is impermissible if expressed in any other form or forum is impermissible if expressed through a blog or social media.
- B. Further, your employer encourages all employees to contemplate the speed and manner in which information posted via social media can be relayed and often misunderstood by readers. Thus, subject to the limited restrictions above, while an employee's free time is generally not subject to any restrictions by your employer, your employer urges all employees to not post information regarding your employer or their jobs which could lead to morale issues in the workplace or which could detrimentally affect your employer's business.

5.15.080 - CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

A. POLICY

- 1. The protection of proprietary information is essential both for the Agency and employee security. In the course of the employee's work, the employee may have access to confidential and proprietary information regarding the Agency, its officers, affiliates, suppliers, customers and fellow employees. To protect such information, the employee may not disclose such information at work except as necessary to perform his/her duties. The employee must not under any circumstances reveal this information outside of the Agency without prior approval by the executive director or authorized designee. Such information can be used only to perform the employee's job duties within the Agency.

B. GUIDELINES

- 1. Proprietary information includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:
 - a. Computer processes;
 - b. Computer programs and codes;
 - c. Customer lists;
 - d. Financial information;

- e. Marketing strategies;
- f. New materials research;
- g. Pending projects and proposals;
- h. Proprietary production processes;
- i. Research and development strategies; and
- j. Technological data.

5.15.090 - WORKPLACE ATTIRE

A. POLICY

1. An employee's personal appearance reflects the Agency's image to the public, applicants, consultants, visitors and other employees. All employees are representatives of the Agency and therefore impact the Agency's image as a professional organization. Personal appearance includes grooming, cleanliness and appropriate attire. Employees are expected to dress in professional office clothing and maintain a businesslike and well-groomed appearance.
2. Attire that is considered "business casual" is acceptable for normal office activities.
3. We strive to maintain a fragrance-free workplace. Employees may not wear any of the following in the workplace or when on the job, regardless of location, if they may come in contact with customers or coworkers: cologne, after shave lotion, or perfume.
4. SRTA shall reasonably accommodate any employee due to his/her sincerely held religious belief or observance, which includes religious dress and grooming practices.

5.15.100 - MEDIA CONTACT

A. POLICY

1. Employees may be approached for interviews or comments by the news media. Only contact people designated by the executive director or authorized designee may comment to news reporters or other media on programs, projects, policies or events that have an impact on the Agency. Otherwise, all media contacts and

requests for information or interviews must be referred to the executive director or authorized designee.

5.15.110 - DRIVING POLICY

A. POLICY

1. When driving on Agency business, the employee should always obey the rules of the road and be courteous to other drivers and pedestrians. As further safety precautions, the employee may not drive on Agency business while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. For insurance purposes, the employee should notify the executive director or authorized immediately if he/she has received a D.U.I. conviction.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Reimbursement When Using Own Vehicle for Agency Business - Employees required or authorized to drive their own vehicle on Agency business shall be reimbursed for actual miles at the annually established rate by the Internal Revenue Service.
2. Injury/Accident When Driving on Agency Business - If the employee is injured in an automobile accident while driving on Agency business, the employee must inform his/her supervisor immediately. Employees are required to maintain their own car insurance and a valid California Driver's License if they drive their own personal vehicle. Evidence of this documentation must be provided to the Agency at least once a year. It is the responsibility of the employee's supervisor to ensure that any accident report is complete and submitted to the insurance carrier.
3. Use of Cell Phones and Text-Based Communication While Driving - In the interest of the safety of our employees and other drivers, Agency employees are prohibited from using cell phones and/or writing, sending or reading text-based communication, including text messaging, instant messaging, and email, on a wireless device or cell phone while driving on Agency business and/or Agency time.

If the employee's job requires that he/she keep a cell phone or other wireless device turned on while driving, the employee must use a hands-free device to make or receive phone calls. All other California state rules and regulations regarding phone calls and text-based communication while driving must be followed.

5.15.120 - EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

A. POLICY

1. The Agency has established the following procedure regarding reimbursement for travel and other Agency related business expenses.

B. GUIDELINES

1. Supervisor Approval - Employees shall obtain supervisory approval prior to incurring any Agency reimbursable expenses related to travel or other business functions.
2. Appropriateness of Reimbursements - The decision of the executive director or authorized designee shall be final in cases where conflict of opinion about the appropriateness of reimbursement exists. The following guidelines shall govern such approval:
 - a. While attending approved functions, the burden of responsibility for sound judgment in spending Agency funds rests on the attending employee.
 - b. A fixed reimbursement amount is set in advance by the executive director or authorized designee to cover all meals not otherwise included in the registration fee.
 - c. The employee shall fill out an employee travel and expense report and submit receipts with itemizations and explanations in order to receive reimbursement.
 - d. Reimbursement requests with receipts shall be submitted to the supervisor for approval on the expense reimbursement form. Approved reimbursement requests shall be forwarded to the executive director or authorized designee for payment.
 - e. Meals will not generally be reimbursed for travel within 25 miles of the Agency offices unless the meal is integral to an agenda public function, such as a conference or training.
3. Vehicle Use/Reimbursement - Employees approved to use their personal vehicles shall receive mileage reimbursement at the rate currently established by the Internal Revenue Service. Whenever possible, employees shall carpool when traveling on Agency business.
4. Per AB 1234, members of the Board shall provide brief reports on meetings attended at the expense of the local agency at the next regular meeting of the

legislative body. Additionally, they shall submit expense reports within a reasonable time after incurring the expense, and the reports shall be accompanied by the receipts documenting each expense that is not reimbursed on a per diem basis.

5.15.130 - OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND CORPORATE AFFILIATION POLICY

A. PURPOSE

1. Government Code Section §1125 et seq. prohibits local agency officers and employees from engaging in employment or activities for compensation which are incompatible, inconsistent or in conflict with their agency employment. Government Code Section 1090 prohibits government officers and employees from being financially interested in a contract or sale in both their public and private capacities. In addition, the state's common law prohibits self-dealing and requires public officers to discharge their responsibilities with fidelity, and untainted by private interests.
2. Agency employees have the same rights as other citizens to paid outside employment if they so desire, unless such outside employment violates the provisions of Section §1125 et seq.

B. GENERAL POLICY: GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 1126

1. Government Code Section §1126 is applicable to all Agency officers and employees. The provisions of Section §1126 are hereby incorporated in this policy and any future amendments to Section §1126 duly adopted by the legislature shall be incorporated by reference as they are enacted.
2. Government Code Section §1126 now provides in pertinent part as follows:
 - a. "A local agency officer or employee shall not engage in any employment, activity, or enterprise for compensation which is inconsistent, incompatible, in conflict with, or inimical to his or her duties as a local agency officer or employee or with the duties, functions, or responsibilities of his or her appointing power or the agency by which he or she is employed. The officer or employee shall not perform any work, service, or counsel for compensation outside of his/her local agency employment where any part of his or her efforts will be subject to approval by any other officer, employee, board or commission of his or her employing body, unless otherwise approved in the manner prescribed by subdivision (b)."
 - b. An employee's outside employment, activity, or enterprise may be prohibited if it:

- I. Involves the use for private gain or advantage of his or her local agency time, facilities, equipment and supplies; or the badge, prestige, or influence of his or her local agency office or employment; or
- II. Involves receipt or acceptance by the officer or employee of any money or other consideration from anyone other than his or her local agency for the performance of an act which the officer or employee, if not performing such act, would be required or expected to render in the regular course or hours of his or her local agency employment or as a part of his or her duties as a local agency officer or employee; or
- III. Involves the performance of an act in other than his or her capacity as a local agency officer or employee which act may later be subject directly or indirectly to the control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement of any other officer or employee or the agency by which he or she is employed; or
- IV. Involves the time demands as would render performance of his or her duties less efficient.

C. PROHIBITED OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OR CORPORATE AFFILIATIONS

1. The Agency adopts the following rules which will govern the application of Government Code Section §1126 restrictions to employees.
2. Employees are prohibited from holding employment or participating in activities for compensation, as described in Government Code section §1126 and which have the characteristics or potential impacts described in subsection 4.
3. Employees are prohibited from being members, officers or directors of corporations, including non-profit corporations (hereafter referred to as “corporate affiliation”), if doing so would have the characteristics or potential impacts described in subsection 4.
4. The outside employment or corporate affiliation is prohibited if it:
 - a. Results in repeated phone calls to or from the employee’s work locations.
 - b. Results in persons making repeated visits to the employee’s work locations.
 - c. Requires the use of time off from work without adequate notice or at times that interfere with the employee’s Agency responsibilities.
 - d. Involves activities that are directly or indirectly subject to the review or approval of an Agency department under which the employee is employed.

- e. Depends upon the availability of Agency information which would not be available to the general public.
 - f. Improperly represents that the outside employment, activity or enterprise for which compensation is received is provided as an Agency service or is endorsed by the Agency, when it is not.
 - g. Involves the use of any Agency property, vehicles, tools, or equipment, whether directly or incidentally.
 - h. Involves activities rendered to Agency clients in the Agency employee's department for private compensation which are expected to be rendered in the regular course of the duties of the Agency employee.
 - i. Interferes with the satisfactory performance of duties.
 - j. Involves any other activities which conflict with the employee's performance of Agency duties for which he or she was hired or is detrimental to Agency service.
 - k. Involves the representation to any individual, company, or firm with which the Agency does business that the employee can or will use his or her position with the Agency to further the interests or goals of that individual, company, or firm for compensation or gifts received from that individual, company, or firm.
5. Any Agency employee who is a member, officer, or director of a corporation, including a non-profit corporation, shall recuse himself or herself from any involvement in establishing or influencing any contractual relationship between the Agency and the corporation, on behalf of either the Agency or the corporation, including making or influencing decisions regarding whether to enter into such contractual relationship, or involvement in procurement, contract drafting or negotiation, or monitoring of the contractor's performance, unless statutorily authorized to do so.
6. All Agency employees who are also subject to professional codes of ethics shall adhere to such professional ethics in any of their dealings with outside employment. Any violation of such professional ethics may result in the prohibition of the outside employment.

D. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

1. Employees contemplating or currently engaging in any outside employment or who change outside employment, or who are or are contemplating becoming a member, officer, or director of a corporation, shall provide the executive director or authorized designee with written notification of all regular outside employment, all occasional outside employment, including self-employment, and all corporate affiliation. An outside employment statement must contain the following:
 - a. The name and address of the employer, client/customer, or corporation, unless there is a statutory privilege making such provision of information confidential. In these circumstances, the executive director or authorized designee may require additional information which is not privileged or confidential.
 - b. The nature of the services or products to be provided, including a copy of the job description or employment agreement.
 - c. The expected hours and duration of the employment or activities related to the corporation.
 - d. The relationship, if any, of the employment to Agency approvals or reviews.
 - e. With regard to corporate affiliations, whether the corporation currently has any contracts with the Agency or is likely to have a contract through the employee's department in the future.
 - f. Any other information that will assist the Agency with determining the compatibility of the outside employment with Agency employment.
 - g. A certification by the employee that he or she has read this chapter and will comply with all of the rules of such policy in pursuing outside employment or corporate affiliation.
 - h. Agency employees currently engaging in outside employment, or who have a corporate affiliation, shall submit notification within 10 days of receipt of this policy. Employees contemplating outside employment, or a corporate affiliation shall submit notification prior to beginning each such employment or corporate affiliation and in no event, shall notification be submitted more than five days after beginning employment or corporate affiliation.

- i. Receipt and filing of the Notice does not constitute approval of such outside employment by the department head.
- j. All employees regardless of whether they intend to engage in outside employment or initiate a corporate affiliation, must sign the Outside Employment/Corporate Affiliation Statement.

E. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 1. Failure to provide written notification as required or failure to provide complete information to the best of the employee's knowledge may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

5.15.140 - APPENDIX 4.A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

I have received a copy of the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency's Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual. I understand that it contains important information on Agency policies, as well as my rights and responsibilities as an employee. I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to familiarize myself with the policies in the Policies and Procedures Manual and abide by these policies.

I have read and understand the Policies and Procedures Manual. I understand that I am governed by its contents. I understand that the Agency retains its discretion to make all decisions concerning my employment (including, e.g., decisions regarding promotions, demotions, transfers, job responsibilities, increases or reductions in pay, bonuses or other compensation, or any other managerial decision). No director, supervisor, or representative of the Agency has the authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or make any agreement for employment.

I understand and agree that nothing in the Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual creates or is intended to create a promise or representation of continued employment.

I have also read and understand the Agency's Unlawful Harassment Policy.

I further understand that the Agency can change, delete, or add to any policies, benefits, or practices described in the Policies and Procedures Manual at its sole and absolute discretion with or without prior notice and in accordance with the board of directors.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Statement Concerning Your Employment in a Job Not Covered by Social Security

Social Security Administration

Statement Concerning Your Employment in a Job Not Covered by Social Security

Employee Name _____ Employee ID# _____
 Employer Name _____ Employer ID# _____

Your earnings from this job are not covered under Social Security. When you retire, or if you become disabled, you may receive a pension based on earnings from this job. If you do, and you are also entitled to a benefit from Social Security based on either your own work or the work of your husband or wife, or former husband or wife, your pension may affect the amount of the Social Security benefit you receive. Your Medicare benefits, however, will not be affected. Under the Social Security law, there are two ways your Social Security benefit amount may be affected.

Windfall Elimination Provision

Under the Windfall Elimination Provision, your Social Security retirement or disability benefit is figured using a modified formula when you are also entitled to a pension from a job where you did not pay Social Security tax. As a result, you will receive a lower Social Security benefit than if you were not entitled to a pension from this job. For example, if you are age 62 in 2013, the maximum monthly reduction in your Social Security benefit as a result of this provision is \$395.50. This amount is updated annually. This provision reduces, but does not totally eliminate, your Social Security benefit. For additional information, please refer to Social Security Publication, "Windfall Elimination Provision."

Government Pension Offset Provision

Under the Government Pension Offset Provision, any Social Security spouse or widow(er) benefit to which you become entitled will be offset if you also receive a Federal, State or local government pension based on work where you did not pay Social Security tax. The offset reduces the amount of your Social Security spouse or widow(er) benefit by two-thirds of the amount of your pension.

For example, if you get a monthly pension of \$600 based on earnings that are not covered under Social Security, two-thirds of that amount, \$400, is used to offset your Social Security spouse or widow(er) benefit. If you are eligible for a \$500 widow(er) benefit, you will receive \$100 per month from Social Security (\$500 - \$400=\$100). Even if your pension is high enough to totally offset your spouse or widow(er) Social Security benefit, you are still eligible for Medicare at age 65. For additional information, please refer to Social Security Publication, "Government Pension Offset."

For More Information

Social Security publications and additional information, including information about exceptions to each provision, are available at www.socialsecurity.gov. You may also call toll free 1-800-772-1213, or for the deaf or hard of hearing call the TTY number 1-800-325-0778, or contact your local Social Security office.

I certify that I have received Form SSA-1945 that contains information about the possible effects of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset Provision on my potential future Social Security Benefits.

Signature of Employee _____ Date _____

Form SSA-1945 (01-2013)
 Destroy Prior Editions